CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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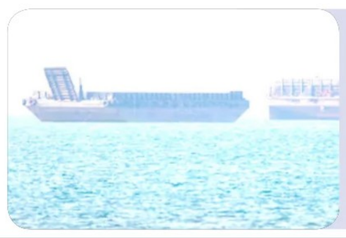

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Recount row in Sringeri sparks 'vote tampering' charge: CM

CM alleges postal ballot manipulation, calls it serious criminal conspiracy

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday alleged a "serious criminal conspiracy" in the recount of votes in the Sringeri Assembly constituency, claiming that postal ballots in favour of Congress candidate Rajegowda were tampered with.

Addressing a press conference at his residence, the CM said Rajegowda had originally won the election by 201 votes, with all ballots declared valid and signed off by officials and agents. However, following a High Court-ordered recount on March 6, 2026, a significant number of postal votes were declared invalid.

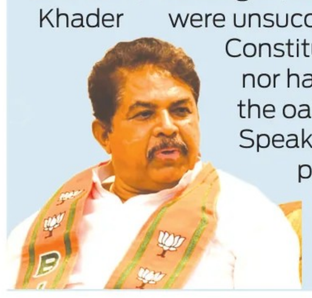
According to Siddaramaiah, only 314 postal votes for Rajegowda were upheld, while 255 were rejected. In contrast, BJP candidate Jeevaraj's postal votes increased in the recount. "Nearly 250 votes cast in favour of Rajegowda appear to have been systematically altered. This amounts to vote theft," he alleged.

The CM also questioned why no objections were raised during the original counting process if the ballots were indeed invalid. He further claimed that election observers had flagged irregularities and written to the Election Commission, suggesting the need for a forensic probe into postal ballots. An FIR has been registered based on Rajegowda's complaint, and Siddaramaiah demanded a fair and impartial investigation. He also criticised the BJP, accusing it of undermining democratic processes.

- Original victory margin: 201 votes
- Rajegowda postal votes (before): 569
- Valid after recount: 314
- Rejected votes: 255
- Jeevaraj postal votes (recount): 690

Ashoka seeks Governor's intervention to administer oath to Jeevaraj

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Tuesday urged the Governor to administer the oath to Sringeri MLA D.N. Jeevaraj, alleging undue delay by Speaker U.T. Khader. Ashoka said Jeevaraj has been declared elected after a recount, received his certificate from the Election Commission, and the gazette notification has been issued. "Despite this, the Speaker is not allowing him to take oath," he alleged, adding that attempts to contact Khader were unsuccessful. Citing Article 188 of the Constitution, Ashoka said the Governor has the authority to administer the oath or appoint someone in the Speaker's absence. He warned of a protest if the delay continues. Ashoka also demanded a CBI probe into alleged irregularities during vote counting.



The Chief Minister added that recent bypoll victories in Bagalkot and Davanagere reflect public support for Congress and its guarantee schemes.

Bengal CM oath on May 9; Amit Shah named observer

KOLKATA

After a sweeping victory in West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party has announced that the new chief minister will take oath on May 9, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The party has appointed Union Home Minister Amit Shah as central observer, with Mohan Charan Majhi as co-observer, to oversee the selection of the legislature party leader.

The focus now shifts to the choice of chief minister, with Suvendu Adhikari emerging as the frontrunner after defeating Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur. Other contenders include state BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya and senior leader Agnimitra Paul. Party leaders reiterated that the final decision will be taken by the central leadership.

Meanwhile, reports of post-poll violence surfaced from several districts, with the All India Trinamool Congress alleging attacks on its offices. No casualties have been reported so far. Political exchanges intensified, with leaders trading accusations over election conduct and aftermath.

Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury attributed the BJP's victory to anti-incumbency and a strong ideological wave, while BJP leaders described the result as a decisive mandate for change.

The symbolic choice of May 9 underscores the party's attempt to align governance with Bengal's cultural legacy, even as it navigates the critical decision of leadership that will shape its first government in the state.

The observer will guide the process, but the final decision on the chief minister will be taken by the central leadership, keeping in mind the mandate and future vision for Bengal.

—Samik Bhattacharya, BJP State President

Key Highlights

- Oath ceremony: May 9 (Rabindra Jayanti)
- Observer: Amit Shah
- Co-observer: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Frontrunner: Suvendu Adhikari
- Other names: Samik Bhattacharya, Agnimitra Paul
- Issue: Post-poll violence reported

Mamata refuses to resign after TMC defeat in WB polls

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has refused to resign despite the Trinamool Congress suffering a major defeat in the 2026 Assembly elections, where the BJP is projected to secure a clear majority. Speaking to reporters, she said she would not go to Raj Bhavan, claiming she has "not lost" and alleging that the mandate has been influenced by electoral manipulation and Centre's interference. Under Article 164(1) of the Constitution, a Chief Minister holds office "during the pleasure of the Governor," meaning continuation depends on majority support in the Assembly. Normally, after election results, the incumbent CM tenders resignation and the Governor invites the party with majority to form government.

Actor-turned-politician seeks Governor's nod; hung Assembly triggers constitutional process

Vijay stakes claim to form govt after TVK emerges largest party

CHENNAI

Vijay, chief of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), has formally staked claim to form the government in Tamil Nadu after his party emerged as the single-largest formation in the Assembly elections, despite falling short of a majority.

In a communication to Governor R. N. Ravi, Vijay said TVK, which secured 108 seats, should be invited to form the government and given an opportunity to prove its majority on the floor of the House. Sources indicated the party has sought up to two weeks to demonstrate its strength.

Officials said the Governor is likely to consult legal experts before taking a decision, as the April 23 polls resulted in a hung Assembly. Meanwhile, security has been tightened outside Vijay's Panaiyur residence following the high-stakes political developments.

Political analyst Sumanth Raman noted that as the single-largest party, TVK could be invited to form a minority government and face a floor test, with opposition parties unlikely to unite immediately.

The results have disrupted the dominance of both Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), signalling a shift in voter sentiment, particularly among youth and women.

We request an opportunity to demonstrate our majority in the Assembly and respect the mandate given by the people.

—Vijay, TVK Chief

TVK has shifted its newly elected MLAs to a resort in Mamallapuram soon after winning 108 seats, as the party moves quickly to secure numbers needed to form the next government in Tamil Nadu. The Vijay-led outfit is just 10 seats short of a simple majority.

ELECTION SNAPSHOT

- Total seats won by TVK: 108
- Majority mark: 118
- Election date: April 23
- Status: Hung Assembly
- Claim: Vijay seeks invitation to form govt
- Next step: Governor's decision, possible floor test

BIAL deploys AI-powered airside safety system

BENGALURU

Bangalore International Airport Limited has rolled out a Smart Airside Safety System at Kempegowda International Airport to enhance operational safety and reduce collision risks in critical zones. The system has been introduced at Cross Service Roads—key intersections where aircraft and ground vehicles converge—requiring precise coordination. BIAL said the platform integrates AI-based computer vision, intelligent automation and centralised monitoring to manage right-of-way more efficiently.

Using AI-enabled cameras, the system detects vehicle movement in real time, assesses potential risks and identifies non-compliant behaviour. Based on this analysis, it automatically activates inset lights to prioritise aircraft movement and restores normal signals once the path is clear. Previously, such operations relied heavily on manual or semi-manual activation, which left scope for delays and human error. The new automated setup is expected to significantly improve response times, particularly during night operations and low-visibility conditions.

Massive Annadasoha planned for BSY Abhimanotsava

CHITRADURGA

Preparations are underway for a large-scale Annadasoha (mass food service) to cater to nearly 10 lakh people expected to attend the 'BSY Abhimanotsava' programme in Chitradurga on May 9, commemorating 50 years of public service by former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa.

Organisers conducted a site inspection to review arrangements for the event, which is anticipated to draw a massive gathering from across the State. The Annadasoha is being planned as one of the key highlights of the celebrations, ensuring that all attendees are provided food during the programme.

Several senior leaders participated in the inspection, including former minister K. Gopalaiah, MLA N. Munirathna, MLAs S. R. Vishwanath and S. Muniraju, former minister Katta Subramanya Naidu and State secretary H. C. Tammesh Gowda, among others. They reviewed logistics such as space allocation, crowd movement and food distribution systems.

The event is expected to be one of the largest political gatherings in the region, reflecting Yediyurappa's long-standing influence in Karnataka politics. Organisers said elaborate arrangements are being made to manage the expected turnout smoothly, with a focus on safety, accessibility and basic amenities. The programme aims to celebrate Yediyurappa's five decades in public life, drawing party workers, supporters and leaders from various parts of the State.

SC questions lawyers' body's locus in Sabarimala women entry case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the role and locus standi of the Indian Young Lawyers Association in challenging the restriction on entry of women of menstruating age at the Sabarimala Temple. Hearing review petitions, a nine-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant asked the petitioner, "Were you the Chief Minister… what was your business?" Justice B.V. Nagarathna also raised concerns over whether a non-believer entity could question religious practices. The Association had filed the original 2006 plea that led to the landmark 2018 verdict allowing entry of women of all ages. The court is now examining broader issues, including limits of public interest litigation and the balance between faith and constitutional rights.

PM condemns Fujairah attack, backs diplomacy amid rising tensions

NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi on Tuesday strongly condemned the drone attack on the UAE's port city of Fujairah that left three Indian nationals injured, calling the targeting of civilian infrastructure "unacceptable" and urging restraint.

In a post on social media, Modi said India stands in solidarity with the United Arab Emirates and reiterated support for resolving tensions through dialogue and diplomacy. "Targeting civilians and infrastructure is unacceptable," he said, stressing the need for peace in the region.

The attack, which reportedly triggered a fire in a key oil facility, comes amid escalating tensions involving Iran and concerns over the fragile ceasefire dynamics in the Gulf. The UAE has accused Iran of carrying out the strikes, which included missiles and drones intercepted by its air defence systems.

Modi also highlighted the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, noting that uninterrupted navigation through the route is critical for global energy security and regional stability. Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies transit through this narrow corridor.

Why Fujairah Matters

- Key UAE port outside Strait of Hormuz
- Major global oil storage and bunkering hub
- Critical for international shipping routes
- Disruptions impact global energy prices
- Strategic alternative to Gulf chokepoints

ELECTION MISUSE CHARGE

BJP's misuse of power has reached its peak: DCM

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday alleged that the BJP-led Union government has been misusing its authority in elections, stating that such misuse has "reached its peak."

Responding to media queries at Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar said he supported Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks alleging "vote theft" in Assam and West Bengal.

"I support Rahul Gandhi's statement," he said when asked about the allegations of electoral manipulation.

Reacting to questions on BJP's criticism of opposition-ruled states like Kerala, Shivakumar said such developments had been visible for some time. "We have been observing what is happening. In West Bengal, around 2.5 lakh central armed forces personnel were deployed, creating an atmosphere of fear," he alleged.

He further claimed that delimitation of constituencies had been carried out in a manner that clustered minority communities in specific areas, which, according to him, could impact the country's political future. "All this poses a threat to the democratic system," he said.

When asked about West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's reported statement that she would not resign despite defeat, Shivakumar said, "In a democracy, we must continue to fight."

He reiterated that safeguarding democratic institutions and electoral integrity was crucial, and called for vigilance against any attempts to undermine the system.

QUICK READ

Peenya flyover shut for 3 days, traffic disruptions likely

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Peenya Flyover, a key traffic corridor connecting nearly 22 districts, has been closed for three days starting Tuesday, causing major inconvenience to commuters. According to traffic police, the closure is due to repair works, including cable installation and load testing being carried out by the National Highways Authority. All vehicular movement on the flyover has been suspended. Commuters using Tumkur Road are expected to face heavy congestion during this period. Authorities said the flyover will reopen for traffic after 11 am on Friday, urging motorists to plan alternate routes.

BMTC bus tyre bursts after overspeeding; mishap averted

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A potential accident was averted after a Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation electric bus suffered a tyre burst while allegedly overspeeding on Vidyaranyapura Road. According to eyewitnesses, the bus was moving above the speed limit, overtook another vehicle and crossed the double yellow line when the tyre suddenly burst, causing it to veer sideways. A biker recorded the incident on a mobile phone. A car and a motorcycle approaching from the opposite direction narrowly escaped a collision. Passengers on board were unharmed. The bus was brought to a halt at the roadside, following which locals.

Footpaths encroached after road upgrade in South Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Residents along Holiday Village Road in Mallasandra, off Kanakapura Road, say newly repaired stretches have led to fresh issues, with footpaths now encroached by street vendors. Though the 2.5-km road improvement has eased travel, locals complain that tea stalls and fast-food vendors have occupied pedestrian space, forcing people onto the road. Vehicles parked near these stalls have further slowed traffic movement. Residents allege that despite multiple complaints since February, authorities have not acted.
A complaint has also been filed with the Lokayukta against civic officials, accusing them of failing to clear the encroachments.

IOC Junction flyover to be razed for ₹436-crore elevated rotary project

After recent demolitions, another key flyover faces removal in east Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

After dismantling the Jayadeva Flyover and marking Delmia Flyover for removal, Bengaluru is set to lose yet another flyover, this time at the busy IOC Junction in the eastern corridor.

The Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited has identified a contractor to construct a ₹436-crore elevated rotary flyover at the junction, replacing the existing structure built by the Railways in 2001-02. The move is aimed at addressing long-standing congestion and improving connectivity to key transport hubs.However, the demolition is expected to disrupt traffic significantly, especially along Dodda Banaswadi Road, Byappanahalli Road and Kammanahalli Road, which already witness heavy vehicular movement. Officials said a detailed traffic management plan will be drawn up in coordination with multiple agencies before work begins.The project is designed to ease bottlenecks and provide seamless access to the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, one

of the city's busiest railway stations. Since its opening in 2022, the terminal has faced criticism over poor last-mile connectivity due to narrow approach roads and limited access points.Officials noted that the new rotary flyover, along with a proposed railway overbridge on Byappanahalli Road connecting to Old Madras Road, will improve access from multiple directions and reduce congestion in surrounding areas such as Maruthi Seva Nagar and Kammanahalli.The project cost has risen from an initial estimate of ₹263 crore in 2023 due to design changes, GST additions and expansion of scope, including a 1.5-km stretch from Maruthi Seva Nagar Road to segregate local and through traffic.With multiple railway lines in the vicinity and involvement of K-RIDE, execution is expected to be complex. Work orders are likely to be issued soon, marking another major transformation in the city's evolving infrastructure landscape.

BWSSB rolls out 60 new tankers amid looming summer water stress

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With summer approaching and water demand expected to rise sharply, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has added 60 new tankers to strengthen its 'Mobile Cauvery' programme and improve supply to water-scarce areas across the city.Officials said the move aims to ensure faster delivery of drinking water to localities still dependent on tanker services and to support residential layouts lacking Cauvery pipeline connections. The new fleet will increase BWSSB-owned tankers to 110, significantly boosting response capacity.A BWSSB official said the decision followed a review of rising demand across Bengaluru.

Early-life factors leave lasting imprint on mental health, studies find

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Early-life experiencesfrom prenatal conditions to childhood environmentplay a decisive role in shaping mental health, cognition and disease risk later in life, according to findings presented at PARAM-Connect hosted by National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences.

The event brought together researchers from long-running cohort studies across Mysuru, Pune, Vellore and tribal regions of Chamarajanagar, highlighting how biological, social and environmental factors interact over time. Experts said advances in brain imaging and large datasets are enabling predictions at the individual level, marking a shift from broad population trends.

Dr Vivek Benegal noted that early adversity and socioeconomic inequality can significantly alter brain development, but supportive environments—especially schools—can act as protective buffers. Several studies stressed that risks begin even before birth, with maternal health playing a critical role.

Research presented by Dr G.V. Krishnaveni showed that children born to diabetic mothers exhibited higher adiposity, elevated blood pressure and insulin resistance, indicating early signs of metabolic disease.

Similarly, findings from the Pune Maternal Nutrition

From womb to adolescence, nutrition and environment shape lifelong outcomes

Study highlighted the long-term impact of maternal nutrition. Vitamin B12 deficiency during pregnancy was linked to poorer attention, cognition and executive function in children, while supplementation improved outcomes even years later.

These intergenerational studies, some spanning over two decades, underline the importance of early interventions in improving both mental and physical health trajectories.

RISKS VISIBLE EARLY IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Data from an Adivasi birth cohort in Chamarajanagar revealed high levels of substance use affecting multiple generations. Researchers found that developmental delays can be detected as early as 12 months, especially among children exposed to multiple risk factors such as parental substance use, underscoring the need for early screening and community-level interventions.

Land acquisition push for suburban rail depot near Devanahalli

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The delayed Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) has received a fresh push with the government initiating acquisition of nearly 31,000 sqm of land near Devanahalli for a key depot facility.

The land will be used to build a primary depot for the Majestic–Devanahalli corridor, also known as the Sampige Line (Corridor-1), which will connect the city centre to the airport region via Yelahanka. The proposed depot is planned at Akkupete near Devanahalli.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board has issued a preliminary notification to acquire land across five villages—Akkupete, Sanna Amanikere, Hireamanikere, Upparahalli and Devanahalli. The largest share, about 14,000 sqm, falls in Akkupete, followed by smaller parcels in the other villages.

Officials said around 50 properties fall within the notified area, mostly owned by private individuals, though some parcels belong to the government and the National Highways Authority of India. The notification restricts sale, lease or development of the land without prior approval and bars any obstruction to officials conducting surveys or inspections.

Compensation for landowners will be determined under the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act, 2013, along with the KIADB Act. In a parallel move, the land has been designated as an industrial area to facilitate project execution.

The depot will be developed by K-RIDE, which is implementing the suburban rail network. Sources said nearly 31 acres have been identified, including forest and government land, with necessary clearances already secured.The facility is expected to play a crucial role in operations, maintenance and stabling of trains on the corridor, improving connectivity to the northern outskirts and boosting the overall suburban rail network.

Radar delay leaves Bengaluru exposed to sudden weather shocks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Repeated spells of intense rain and gusty winds have exposed a major gap in Bengaluru's disaster preparedness—the absence of a dedicated Doppler weather radar for real-time, hyperlocal forecasting.

The issue came into sharp focus after the April 29 downpour, when heavy rain intensified within minutes, flooding several areas and catching authorities off guard. Experts say a Doppler radar system could provide a crucial lead time of one to three hours, enabling better emergency response and damage control.

Although the India Meteorological Department issued an orange alert that evening, the sudden escalation left little time for agencies to act. Despite repeated demands and approval from the Union government, installation of a radar system in Bengaluru has been delayed due to logistical hurdles.A site atop Nandi Hills was finalised in 2025 after prolonged discussions. However, challenges in transporting heavy equipment to the hilltop have stalled progress. Officials say the narrow entry to the hill, restricted by fort structures, cannot accommodate large machinery such as cranes and earthmovers required for installation.IMD authorities have sought government support to airlift equipment, but the proposal is yet to be acted upon. "We are awaiting intervention to move forward," an official said. Weather experts warn that the delay has already cost the city an opportunity to host Karnataka's first Doppler radar, with Mangaluru commissioning one ahead of Bengaluru. Dharwad is also close to setting up a similar system, further highlighting the capital's lag in adopting advanced forecasting infrastructure. With climate variability increasing and extreme weather events becoming more frequent, stakeholders stress the urgent need for a technology-driven forecasting system. Faster implementation, they say, is critical to safeguarding lives, reducing economic losses and improving the city's overall resilience to sudden weather changes.

Lokayukta seeks report by May 16 on Bowring Hospital wall collapse

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta has directed officials to submit a detailed report by May 16 on the collapse of a compound wall at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar that claimed seven lives.Taking suo motu cognisance of the April 29 incident, Lokayukta and Deputy Lokayukta officials visited the site on Monday to inspect the damage and assess preliminary evidence.

The collapse, triggered by heavy rain, killed seven people, including women and children, raising serious concerns over infrastructure safety.

A senior police officer of Superintendent rank has been appointed as the investigating officer, supported by a team that includes a District Judge and the Chief Engineer from the Lokayukta's technical wing.

The team conducted a spot inspection in the presence of Greater Bengaluru Authority officials and gathered initial evidence.Notices have been issued to concerned civic authorities, seeking detailed information on the construction, maintenance and safety of the wall. Officials have been asked to cooperate fully with the probe.

HC orders BHEL employee to pay ₹15,000 monthly maintenance to wife

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has directed a BHEL employee to pay ₹15,000 per month as maintenance to his wife, setting aside a family court order that had earlier rejected her claim.Justice K. Manmadha Rao, while allowing the woman's petition, ruled that the maintenance would be payable from March 2016—the date of application—till her lifetime. The court also directed the husband to clear arrears within two months.The couple, married in 1985, has three children. According to the petitioner, she was forced to live separately from 2016 due to repeated disputes and lack of financial support from her husband, who was earning around ₹74,000 per month. She alleged that she had to depend on her mother's assistance to perform their daughters' marriages and described her husband as having a volatile temperament.The husband, however, denied the allegations, claiming that he was subjected to abuse and was forced to leave the matrimonial home. In 2018, the family court dismissed the woman's petition under Section 125 of the CrPC, stating that she failed to establish neglect or harassment.Challenging this, the woman approached the High Court, which took a different view after examining the evidence and legal principles governing maintenance.

B'luru to become fastest-growing city by 2035: Report

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru is projected to emerge as the world's fastest-growing major city by 2035, driven by its strong technology ecosystem, skilled workforce, and rapid expansion as a Global Capability Centre (GCC) hub, according to a new report.A study by property consulting firm Savills, which analysed 245 global cities, placed multiple Indian cities among the top 20 fastest-growing urban centres, highlighting Asia Pacific's dominance in urban expansion trends. The region accounts for nearly 85% of the fastest-growing cities in the index.The report said India, along with Vietnam and China, is leading urban growth momentum in the region, supported by factors such as a young population, rising inward migration, and increasing high-income households.

Cities were evaluated based on indicators such as GDP growth projections up to 2035, personal wealth growth, dependency ratio, inward migration, and the number of high-earning households. Only cities with GDP above $50 billion in 2025 were included in the study."Bengaluru's ranking reflects India's structural strengths, including a skilled workforce and expanding global corporate presence," said Arvind Nandan of Savills India.

IMD issues rain, thunderstorm alert for Bengaluru, 13 districts

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for Bengaluru and 12 south interior districts, forecasting widespread rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds over the next three days.According to the advisory, districts including Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru are likely to witness moderate to heavy rainfall at isolated places, accompanied by lightning and winds of 30–40 kmph.

Residents have been advised to remain indoors during intense spells, avoid open areas during lightning and secure loose objects that could be displaced by strong winds. Authorities have also cautioned people to stay alert near weak structures and trees, and to watch for waterlogging in low-lying areas.Light to moderate rainfall is also expected in parts of coastal and north interior Karnataka. Dakshina Kannada may receive intermittent showers, while Udupi and Uttara Kannada could see mixed weather conditions.

PROTECT CIVIC WORKERS

Sanitation workers seek relief from heat, demand basic facilities

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With summer temperatures soaring, sanitation workers in the city have urged civic authorities to provide basic relief measures, citing harsh working conditions and lack of essential facilities.The BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha has submitted a representation to Chief Commissioner Rajendra Cholan, highlighting that pourakarmikas—many of them women—work from 6.30 am to 2.30 pm in intense heat, often without weekly

offs or public holidays.Union leaders said workers are denied access to rest shelters, clean drinking water and toilets, exposing them to severe health risks. "These conditions weaken workers and affect their well-being," said M. Nirmala, president of the union. The Sangha has demanded half-day work waivers during peak heat hours and the provision of refreshments such as buttermilk, oral rehydration salts and safe drinking water.In addition, workers have sought protective gear including caps, umbrellas, eye shields and appropriate uniforms to cope with rising temperatures. They also flagged the absence of basic infrastructure like restrooms across work zones.Though the representation was submitted to the central zone, workers said similar conditions prevail across the city and plan to submit petitions to other civic bodies.Activists pointed out that other cities have adopted measures to protect outdoor workers. In Hyderabad, mist fans have been installed at key junctions to provide relief to traffic personnel. Chennai has introduced shaded green canopies and air-conditioned rest lounges for workers exposed to the sun. In New Delhi, authorities have installed cold water dispensers in public buses and restricted outdoor work during peak afternoon hours.

QUICK READ

Shalu IPS takes charge in Kalaburagi city

KALABURAGI

Young IPS officer Shalu assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) in Kalaburagi city. A 2021 batch Karnataka cadre officer from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, she holds a B.Tech in Computer Science. She earlier served as Assistant Superintendent of Police in Holenarasipura and later worked in the CID Special Investigation Division after promotion. After taking charge, she said her priority will be maintaining peace, ensuring public safety, and enforcing law effectively. Her technical background and investigative experience are expected to strengthen policing and improve crime prevention in the city and overall system.

MP Jigajinagi Pushes Mumbai Train Stop at India

VIJAYAPUR

Member of Parliament Ramesh Jigajinagi has urged South Western Railway to provide a stoppage for the Gadag–Mumbai train at Indi railway station. In a letter to the railway general manager, he said Indi is an important commercial centre near the Karnataka–Maharashtra border. He noted that the town is known for lemon supply and export of grapes, pomegranates and other crops. He added that Indi has grown into a city municipal council and is a major trading hub in Vijayapura district. Farmers in the region grow sugarcane and other commercial crops, increasing transport needs. He said a train halt would help farmers, traders and businesses travel easily to Mumbai and improve trade opportunities. The MP requested railway authorities to consider the demand positively and take quick action to support regional development.

Swamiji links polls, immigration concerns in Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI

Shiv Sena state president Siddalinga Swamiji told reporters in Kalaburagi that the recent election result in West Bengal shows what he called end of misrule in the state He alleged that West Bengal had seen anti-constitutional governance for fifteen years He claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah influenced voters through large rallies leading to BJP gains He also said similar trend was seen in Assam Referring to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee he alleged dissatisfaction among people was reflected in results He further warned that illegal immigration from Bangladesh could rise in southern states including Karnataka and Telangana.

Bidar BJP celebrates historic three state wins

BJP supporters in Bidar celebrated historic victories in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry, marking a significant national momentum.

BIDAR

The streets of Ram Chowk were filled with orange flags and the sound of firecrackers as BJP supporters celebrated the party's success in three state assembly elections. Leaders and activists from various pro-Hindu organizations joined the festivities, sharing sweets and cheering for the victory in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry.

Local leader Revansiddappa Jalade addressed the enthusiastic crowd, calling the win in West Bengal a "historic" turning point for the nation. He claimed that the results were a clear sign that voters had rejected corruption and oppression. "The people have given an unprecedented mandate," Jalade stated, adding that the victory felt like a new era of freedom for those frustrated with past governance.

The celebration highlighted a sense of deep trust in the party's national vision. Supporters argued that the win across different regions of India shows that the public supports their message of unity and fair governance. Many activists present expressed that the election results in West Bengal specifically were the result of a combined effort to restore social order.

Prominent local figures, including Shriram Ambure, Rajkumar Bijja, and Shivakant Patil, were seen leading the celebrations alongside hundreds of workers. As the party continues to celebrate its momentum, the event in Bidar served as a powerful display of strength and confidence for the local BJP unit and its supporters.

Minister checks progress on grand Anubhava Mantapa

BASAVAKALYAN

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre inspected the ₹480 crore Anubhava Mantapa project in Basavakalyan, featuring the world's tallest Ishtalinga and 770 pillars honoring Basavanna's democratic philosophy.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre visited Basavakalyan to inspect the massive construction of the new Anubhava Mantapa. During his visit, the Minister offered prayers at the site of the world's tallest "Ishtalinga," a 55-meter structure that stands as the centerpiece of the project.

Minister Khandre highlighted that this site is being built to honor the philosophy of Basavanna, who introduced early democracy to the world. A unique feature of the building includes 770 pillars, each carved with the sayings of ancient thinkers. To blend tradition with modern needs, the complex will also house a science-backed training center for mental well-being and a "Sharana Gram" to showcase historical values.

Beyond its spiritual importance, the project aims to help local youth. The Minister announced plans for skill development centers to provide vocational training, reminding everyone that "work is worship" and no job is inferior. He also confirmed that money is not an issue, noting that $₹$480 crore has already been spent, with more funds on the way from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The Minister has instructed contractors to speed up their work to finish on time. Once complete, the Anubhava Mantapa is expected to be a major landmark for both history and technology. Local leaders and officials joined the Minister during the inspection, expressing confidence that the project will soon become a global center for learning and peace.

Minister Eshwar Khandre warned of strict legal action against anyone obstructing drinking water access in Bidar's drought-hit villages.

STRICT ACTION WARNED OVER WATER SUPPLY BLOCKS

BIDAR

As summer heat intensifies, Karnataka Minister Eshwar Khandre has issued a stern warning, anyone blocking drinking water access in parched villages will face immediate legal action. During a high-level review, the Minister noted that 43 villages across Aurad, Bhalki, and Basavakalyan are currently suffering from severe water scarcity.

The crisis has pushed groundwater levels down to a staggering 800 feet in some areas. To tackle this, the government is deploying water tankers to the hardest-hit hamlets. However, reports have surfaced of influential individuals obstructing water collection from government-funded wells on private lands. "No matter how powerful they are, file cases against them without hesitation," Khandre told officials, emphasizing that water is a basic right.

Local teams, including village accountants and tahsildars, have been ordered to conduct morning inspections to ensure fair distribution. They are also tasked with disconnecting illegal motors that pump water away from public use. To further assist rural areas, the Minister directed the release of water from the Karanja reservoir specifically for livestock.Beyond water, the meeting addressed the upcoming monsoon, with the Minister promising that seeds and fertilizers will be ready for farmers. He also put the fire department on high alert due to rising forest fires, ordering police to file FIRs against anyone caught starting fires deliberately. With 24 weeks of fodder in stock and plans to clear tanker bills quickly, the administration is moving fast to prevent a full-blown summer emergency.

Vijayapura turns saffron as BJP celebrates key victories

VIJAYAPURA

Gandhi Circle became the center of a massive celebration as BJP workers in Vijayapura cheered the party's performance in the West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry assembly elections. The atmosphere was festive, with hundreds of supporters bursting crackers and sharing sweets to the sound of victory slogans.

District President Gurulingappa Angadi told the gathered crowd that these results prove the "Modi wave" is stronger than ever. He noted that the BJP's surge in West Bengal, traditionally a Trinamool Congress stronghold, shows that voters are looking for a change in leadership. "A new phase of development is set to begin," Angadi claimed, as workers celebrated what they see as a major political shift.

Former Minister Appasaheb Pattanshetti took a sharper tone, alleging that the electorate had delivered a strong message against the policies of the previous West Bengal government. He argued that the Prime Minister's focus on infrastructure and growth has left the Congress party struggling to stay relevant in the national conversation.

The celebration also highlighted the role of women in the election.

KKRTC provides massive financial aid to families

KALABURAGI

In a heartfelt ceremony, the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) provided a vital lifeline to families grieving the loss of their loved ones. Chairman Arunkumar M. Y. Patil distributed compensation cheques of ₹1 crore each to the families of two brave employees who died in tragic accidents.

The significant payouts were made possible through a strategic partnership with the State Bank of India. The recipients included Vijayalakshmi, the wife of conductor Umesh from Koppal, and Parvati, the wife of driver Ravi from Yadgir. While the atmosphere was somber, the financial support offered a sense of security for their future.

Beyond these major claims, the corporation also supported seven other families. Under an internal group insurance scheme, dependents of employees who passed away during their service received amounts ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹12.5 lakh. Chairman Patil noted that while money cannot replace a human life, this insurance ensures children can continue their education without a heavy financial burden.Managing Director Dr. B. Sushila urged the families to use the funds wisely, emphasizing the importance of long-term stability. Records show that between 2022 and 2026, KKRTC has distributed ₹38 crore across 380 cases, proving their commitment to staff welfare.

Official demands faster work and timely wages

VIJAYAPURA

Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Prakash Vaddar has issued a firm directive to district officials to streamline the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). During a high-level review meeting, he emphasized that the program must serve as a reliable safety net for the rural poor by providing guaranteed work and swift payments.Addressing a hall full of executive officers and technical staff, Vaddar insisted that every eligible family demanding work must receive an assignment within the legal timeframe. He made it clear that delays in wage payments would no longer be tolerated. To ensure this, he ordered that 100% face authentication for all workers be completed within just two days.The Deputy Secretary highlighted water and soil conservation as top priorities for new projects. He instructed officials to generate labor rolls immediately across all 211 Gram Panchayats to keep the momentum going. Furthermore, he set a strict one-week deadline for completing e-KYC for every registered worker, which is essential for processing their claims and ensuring transparency.Looking ahead, Vaddar noted that the 2026–27 action plan is already in the system.

He warned that any funds lost due to poor quality or audit findings must be recovered and deposited back into the treasury immediately. By pushing for total digital transparency and weekly progress reviews, the administration aims to meet ambitious employment targets while ensuring that every rupee spent directly benefits the hardworking laborers who depend on the scheme for survival.

Health chief orders better care for mothers

VIJAYAPURA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. K. Anand has called for a high-priority shift toward the safety and well-being of pregnant women across the district. During a health review meeting, he mandated the strict implementation of the National Health Mission to ensure no mother or child is left behind. Dr. Anand directed health officials to ensure that every pregnant woman undergoes 12 to 14 regular check-ups.

Public welfare schemes secure massive congress victory

YADGIR

Local MLA Chennareddy Patil Tunnur hailed the Congress party's recent by-election triumphs in Davanagere South and Bagalkot as a clear endorsement of the government's "pro-people" agenda. In reports, Patil noted that the results reflect deep public trust in the state's administration and its welfare initiatives.

The victory of Samarth Shamanur in Davanagere South is particularly significant, as he continues the storied political legacy of his late grandfather, Shamanur Shivashankarappa. At a young age, Shamanur has already made his mark by securing a seat once held by a veteran leader. Similarly, in Bagalkot, Umesh Meti's win has solidified his family's local influence while strengthening the party's overall foothold in the region. Patil attributed these successes to a combination of factors, including disciplined campaigning and the strong leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Mallikarjun Kharge, and D.K. Shivakumar. He specifically highlighted the "guarantee schemes," which have resonated deeply with women voters and marginalized communities."Despite the constant criticism from the BJP-JD(S) alliance over the last three years, the citizens have spoken," Patil said.

YEDIYURAPPA'S GOLDEN MILESTONE

Mega event to honor Yediyurappa's 50-year career

KALABURAGI

A massive celebration titled "BSY Abhimanotsava" is set to take place on May 9 in Chitradurga to honor former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. The event marks his incredible 50-year journey in public life. According to BJP district president Ashok Bagali, over 10 lakh people from across the state are expected to attend the non-political gathering.

Supporters from all nine constituencies of Kalaburagi are preparing to travel in large numbers for the mega convention. Leaders highlighted Yediyurappa's deep impact on the region, particularly his role in renaming it "Kalyana Karnataka" and securing funds for projects like the new Anubhava Mantapa. "He is a leader who always put farmers first, even taking his oath in their name," Bagali noted during a press conference.

The celebration will begin a day early on May 8 with a grand "mini-Dasara" style procession through the streets of Chitradurga. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to attend the main event on Saturday to personally felicitate the veteran leader. Organizers emphasized that the venue was chosen for its central location, making it easy for followers from both North and South Karnataka to join.

The event is being viewed as a tribute to a man who spent nearly 45 years in the opposition before leading the state. With over 1,000 religious leaders invited, the "Abhimanotsava" promises to be one of the largest cultural and social gatherings the region has seen in recent years.

Kalaburagi cultural festival celebrates tradition and art

KALABURAGI

The Rangayana Auditorium came alive with music and dance during the "Janapriya Samskrutika Sambhramotsava," a vibrant festival showcasing the rich artistic heritage of the region. Organized by the Janapriya Cultural Arts Association in partnership with the Department of Kannada and Culture, the event drew a large crowd of art enthusiasts and local families. Inaugurating the festival, Jyoti Patil, BJP Mahila Morcha South Zone President, spoke about the healing power of the arts. She noted that cultural programs are more than just entertainment, they serve as a vital tool for relieving mental stress and fostering a sense of community well-being. Dr. Veena Patil, a well-known actress and folk practitioner, echoed these sentiments, urging students to balance their schoolwork with music and dance to build a more well-rounded personality.

QUICK READ

Municipal Council faces cleanliness survey allegations

Hunsur

The Hunsur Municipal Council is facing allegations during the ongoing cleanliness survey, as the state monitoring team visits the city. Satya MAS Foundation president Satyappa said the council is showing only clean areas and giving false information. In NS Layout near Talent School, drains are filled with waste, causing foul smell and mosquito breeding. Locals say garbage collected is left nearby and not removed for months, creating health problems for school children and residents. The foundation has urged immediate cleaning and repair of drains, warning of protest and complaint to the state team if issues continue.

Officer inspects severe drinking water crisis

Aurad

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Kiran Patil visited Maharajwadi, Vijayanagar Tanda and Poma Devala Tanda in Jambagi Gram Panchayat limits on Tuesday to review drinking water shortage. Residents told officials that water sources have dried up, causing severe scarcity in the villages. The officer inspected the situation and assured that alternative arrangements will be made soon and a permanent solution will be found. Jambagi Gram Panchayat Development Officer Dinesh Reddy, IEC Coordinator Ambadas Patil and other staff accompanied him during the visit. Officials said steps will be taken quickly to ease the drinking water problem in affected habitations.

Kannada Kotyadhipati quiz held in college

Kalaburagi

A special Kannada Kotyadhipati-style quiz program was held at M.N. Desai Graduate College to improve student knowledge and confidence. The event began with prayers to actor Puneeth Rajkumar's portrait. Students took part with great interest and showed their skills in a question-and-answer competition. Winners received attractive prizes and encouragement. College leaders said such activities help improve general knowledge, thinking ability and competitive spirit among youth. Many staff members and hundreds of students attended the program. The management said more such events will be organized to support learning and entertainment together in the future for students growth overall.

D K Shivakumar outlines vision for Bengaluru growth

Shivakumar said Bengaluru should match global cities, noted rising economy, infrastructure growth, and higher per capita income

BENGALURU

Institute for Sustainability, Employment and Growth
(ISEG Foundation)
In the august presence of
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Bengaluru City Development Minister
Shri D.K. Shivakumar

Officials in Karnataka have signed a major agreement to prepare a long-term economic master plan aimed at transforming Bengaluru into a world-class growth hub. The government signed a joint statement of intent with the Sustainable Employment and Development Foundation (ISEG) to support this planning work.Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said Bengaluru must compete with global cities and become a strong economic centre. He said the government has been working for three years to strengthen Bengaluru's economy and infrastructure. The per capita income in the Bengaluru metropolitan region has reached 8,850 dollars, which is much higher than the state average.The proposed master plan will cover the period from 2032 to 2037 and focus on jobs, housing, tourism, and reducing traffic congestion. Officials said maps will be prepared to decide development zones and improve city planning in a scientific and data-based manner. The plan also aims to reduce traffic problems seen in major Indian cities by improving infrastructure and transport systems in Bengaluru.

The government has planned projects worth about two lakh crore rupees, which will be implemented in phases across the city. The Chief Minister's office said citizen feedback from industry, technology, water, energy, and education sectors will be included in planning.The ISEG Foundation, which has previously worked in cities like Mumbai, Pune, Visakhapatnam, and Varanasi, will complete the blueprint within four months. Officials have been instructed to cooperate fully and involve citizens, builders, entrepreneurs, and academic institutions in preparing the final plan. Shivakumar said Bengaluru is entering a new phase of planned development aimed at global competitiveness and better quality of life for citizens.

The government hopes the master plan will guide future growth, improve infrastructure, create jobs, and reduce congestion across the metropolitan region. Officials said regular consultations will continue during preparation of the plan to ensure practical solutions for long-term urban development challenges in Bengaluru.The initiative is seen as a major step towards making Bengaluru a globally competitive city with improved planning, better services, and sustainable growth. Authorities believe coordinated efforts between government and citizens will ensure successful implementation of this long-term vision ahead successfully.

Two seats won, 224 await, Congress can't celebrate too soon

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM MYSURU

Congress credited victory to five guarantees and Siddaramaiah leadership, with strong booth-level campaign management and targeted ministerial coordination ensuring voter outreach

The ruling Congress may be basking in the glow of its recent bypoll victories, but beneath the celebratory confetti lies a far more complex political landscape. Winning two Assembly seats is one thing; replicating that success across 224 constituencies in the next Assembly elections—just 24 months away—is an entirely different battle.

Bypoll victories, as history often reminds us, are not always reliable indicators of a party's enduring popularity. In fact, they frequently follow a predictable script. The ruling party, armed with the full might of government machinery and backed by an army of ministers deployed booth-by-booth, tends to hold an upper hand. The contests in Davangere South and Bagalkot were no exception. For the Congress, retaining these seats was not just about numbers—it was about prestige, perception, and political messaging.

Had the opposition BJP managed to snatch even one of these seats, it would have sent ripples across the State's political narrative. Instead, the saffron party failed to convert murmurs of anti-incumbency into tangible gains. The moment has passed, and the electorate has delivered its verdict. But the larger questions remain unanswered.

Congress leaders have swiftly credited their triumph to the much-publicized "five guarantees" and what they describe as a vote of confidence in the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. While that claim carries some weight, it risks overlooking the intense, almost surgical campaign management that went into these bypolls. Ministers were assigned responsibility down to individual booths, ensuring that no voter was left untouched.

The real challenge, however, lies ahead: can this level of micro-management be replicated statewide? The answer is far from certain. Managing two constituencies is a controlled exercise; navigating the political currents of an entire State is a different storm altogether. It is, quite literally, the million-dollar question.

Within the Congress camp, credit-sharing has also begun. While the Chief Minister stands at the forefront, his deputy and KPCC President D. K. Shivakumar has been equally vocal about his role in orchestrating the victories—hinting at the subtle undercurrents of internal power dynamics.Meanwhile, the road ahead is dotted with crucial electoral milestones. The upcoming GBA election and the long-delayed urban local body polls will serve as litmus tests. Interestingly, the State government appears hesitant to face these local body elections immediately, possibly wary of setting an unfavorable trend ahead of the Assembly polls.

Ultimately, the true measure of Congress' popularity will not lie in isolated bypoll wins but in the broader mandate of the people. The local body elections, whenever they are held, will offer a clearer glimpse into the public mood—whether the current wave is a rising tide or just a passing ripple.

PMUY beneficiaries must complete yearly eKYC for₹300 subsidy; LPG supply continues but subsidy lapses without compliance

LPG consumers must complete Aadhaar eKYC to avail subsidy benefits

MYSURU

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) — Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited — under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have launched a Biometric Aadhaar Authentication drive for domestic LPG consumers, including beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).As part of the initiative, all LPG consumers have been advised to complete their Biometric Aadhaar eKYC free of cost. Consumers can complete the process through two methods. The first option is self-authentication using the respective OMC mobile application along with the Aadhaar Face RD App, or by visiting the official portal of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The second option is to complete the authentication through the LPG delivery personnel or by visiting the local distributor.Officials stated that PMUY beneficiaries must complete eKYC once every financial year to continue receiving the subsidy of ₹300 per cylinder. The subsidy is applicable on the 8th and 9th refills of 14.2 kg cylinders, while for 5 kg cylinders, it applies from the 21st refill onwards.Consumers have been urged to complete the process before March 31, failing which the subsidy for the eligible refills will lapse permanently. However, authorities clarified that LPG supply will not be disrupted even if eKYC is not completed, and consumers can continue to book refills within the annual limit, though without subsidy benefits.For further assistance, consumers can contact the toll-free helpline number 1800 2333 555.

Baldota protest gains strength in Koppal district

KOPPAL

The State Farmers' Association extended support to the 187th day of protest demanding the removal of Baldota industrial project in Koppal district. The protest at Hirebagana village has gained attention as residents continue to oppose pollution and land acquisition linked to the project.Melukote MLA Darshan Puttanaiah said during his visit that he was deeply moved by the suffering of villagers, especially women who were seen crying over the situation. He stated that several factories in the area go against balanced development and urged authorities to act without delay.

Ambedkar Event Calls for Unity Awareness Hunsur

HUNSUR

Hariharanandaswamy said Dr B R Ambedkar Constitution protects every person of all castes and religions. He spoke at Ambedkar 135th birth anniversary programme held at Ratnapuri village in Hunsur taluk. He advised youth and women to follow Ambedkar ideas in daily life.

Speakers said the Constitution brings unity, love, peace and equality in society.

They said laws exist for all and people should respect Constitution while holding positions of power. Former Zilla Parishad member Nagaraj Malladi said Ambedkar protected women's rights and fought for equality. Activists said celebrating Ambedkar Jayanti together shows village unity and respect for great leaders. Speakers warned youth must understand social issues and focus on education and national progress.

A grand procession was taken out with Ambedkar portrait, decorations, and slogans of Jai Bhim.Youth and villagers participated in cultural celebrations and decorated the entire village with lamps and rangoli. Former MLA H P Manjunath inaugurated the programme and praised Ambedkar's vision for social justice. Organisers said the event encouraged harmony, equality and awareness among villagers of Ratnapuri.

Speakers called for continuing Ambedkar's message of education, rights and unity for future generations. The programme ended with cultural performances and a strong message of social equality and respect. Villagers said they will continue to follow Ambedkar's principles in daily life and community activities. The celebration highlighted the importance of education, unity and peaceful coexistence in rural society.

Satirical cartoons mirror social realities with sharp wit: Rajeev

MYSURU

The caricatures displayed subtly and satirically reflect the ups and downs of contemporary society, said former MUDA chairman and founder of Pramathi Educational Institution, H.V. Rajeev.

He was speaking on Tuesday after inaugurating the "War and Peace" cartoon exhibition by renowned cartoonist M.V. Nagendra Babu, organized by Banter Babu Publication at Mysuru Art Gallery on Ramanuja Road as part of World Cartoonists' Day celebrations.

BUDDHA JAYANTI CELEBRATED WITH CARE FOR ELDERS

MYSURU

Buddha Jayanti was celebrated in a meaningful way at Pelukku Vatsalya Dham in Srirampur, where elderly residents were given coconut water, dry fruits, and fruit hampers. The event focused on kindness and care for senior citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, J.D.S. leader Prakash Priyadarshan said people should follow the five teachings of Lord Buddha in daily life. These include not lying, avoiding violence, not stealing, and staying away from smoking and alcohol. He also stressed living a moral life with self-control.He said Lord Buddha showed that true peace can be found through good actions, meditation, and discipline. He added that it is important to share Buddha's values with the younger generation so they can lead better lives.Several guests attended the event, including social workers, community leaders, and volunteers, who joined hands to spread the message of compassion, service, and unity among people.

NS Bhosaraju reviews KDP meeting in Madikeri

MADIKERI

With the monsoon expected to arrive in the first week of June, Kodagu District In-charge Minister N. S. Bhosaraju has directed officials to speed up road repair and development works across the district. He gave these instructions while chairing the district-level quarterly Karnataka Development Program (KDP) review meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Madikeri.The minister said all potholes on Public Works Department and Panchayat Raj roads must be filled urgently to ensure safe travel before rains begin. He warned officials that delay in using government funds for development work is unacceptable and stressed that engineers must act on time to avoid public complaints.MLA Dr. Mantar Gowda also urged that road works in the Madikeri assembly constituency be completed quickly with proper quality. He highlighted urgent projects such as the Aiguru bridge, Galibidu road repairs, and maintenance of roads in Mutlu, Hammiyala, Devastur and Hanchinadu.

ILLEGAL KHATA SCAM

Kranti Sena holds protest in front of Rammanahalli TP

MYSURU

A protest was staged by the Karnataka Kranti Sena in Mysuru on Tuesday demanding the suspension of Rammanahalli Town Panchayat Chief Officer Mahesh and Revenue Inspector Manjunath for allegedly making illegal property registrations (khata) of government land in favor of private individuals and harassing innocent citizens by not processing their legitimate requests.

During the demonstration held in front of the Rammanahalli Town Panchayat office, the protesters accused the officials of colluding with land mafias to unlawfully transfer government land meant for the poor into private hands. They alleged that many unsuspecting citizens, after purchasing such illegally registered sites, have lost their life savings amounting to lakhs of rupees and have been cheated.

The protesters further claimed that while these officials swiftly process illegal khatas for government land within days, they deliberately delay or deny khata approvals for genuine properties. Common people, including retired government employees and the poor, are reportedly made to run from pillar to post for months without resolution.

It was also charged that the officials do not demand proper documentation from land mafias while approving illegal registrations, but reject applications from ordinary citizens despite submission of all required documents online, citing trivial reasons. Revenue Inspector Manjunath was specifically accused of misbehaving with applicants, verbally abusing them, and driving them out of the office.

According to the protesters, such actions are forcing citizens to pay thousands of rupees in bribes through middlemen to get their work done. They stated that despite lodging complaints with higher authorities regarding these irregularities, no action has been taken so far.

Hunsur lake faces waste threat, urgent action sought

HUNSUR

Deed Director Dr. S Srikanth has requested the constituency MLA GD Harish Gowda, Municipal Commissioner Manasa, Hunsur Development Authority chief Rekha and Govindanahalli PDO Rajkumar to immediately stop the Chikkahunsur lake under the Govindanahalli Gram Panchayat limits of the taluk from being turned into a garbage dump and to remove the weeds and thorny plants from the footpath around the lake, which has been built at great expense, and to prevent the sewage water from entering the paddy fields of 8 farmers in Chikkahunsur village, and to install a proper drain to prevent the sewage water from entering the fields.He said earlier requests had no action and again raised the issue to the media, Srikanth said.Govindanahalli PDO Rajkumar met and discussed with him and informed that the PDO has already informed the HUDA chief that a request has been made to develop the lake with a no-objection letter and a Panchayat resolution and that HUDA can take up the development of the lake soon.

MP orders urgent fix for drinking water crisis

Officials reported water shortages in many villages, borewell issues, tanker supply, RO repairs needed, and infrastructure improvement discussions

CHITRADURGA

MP Govinda M Karajol directed officials to resolve drinking water problems within 24 hours in affected villages and repair RO units immediately. He said this while chairing a meeting at the Zilla Panchayat CEO office in Chitradurga regarding the district's drinking water shortage. He said people are calling officials with complaints and urged them to visit villages, assess situations and respond quickly. In severely affected areas, he instructed officials to hire private borewells from farmers or supply water through tankers where needed. He stressed that water must be used carefully as both people and livestock depend on it during summer. He appealed to citizens to use saline water for household purposes and reserve clean water for drinking. He also said he would write to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and TB Dam Board regarding water release from Tungabhadra reservoir. Officials warned that low water levels have already stopped supply to several multi-village drinking water schemes in the region. According to officials, about 93 gram panchayats and 216 habitations are facing water shortages across the district. They said 54 new borewells were drilled this year, but seven have low water yield. Water is being supplied through tankers in several villages including Holalkere, Hiriyur and Chikkajajur taluks. There are 1045 RO units in the district, of which 832 are working and 133 are not functional. Officials said Rs 63 lakh is required to repair RO units and improve drinking water systems. Additional officials, engineers and local representatives attended the meeting and discussed measures to improve supply and infrastructure. MP Govinda M Karajol said priority must be given to drinking water supply above all other works and urged departments to coordinate effectively. He also suggested using available water resources carefully and ensuring that no village suffers due to negligence or delay.

QUICK READ

Lokayukta catches SESCOM officer taking bribe

Hassan

A SESCOM junior engineer in Nuranakki village of Channarayapatna taluk was caught by Lokayukta police while taking bribe. Devaraju, the junior engineer of Nuranakki SESCOM branch, had allegedly demanded Rs 5,000 to provide electricity connection for a borewell. Lokayukta officers laid a trap and caught him red-handed with the bribe money. Inspector Shilpa and her team led the operation and took the officer into custody. Officials said strict action will be taken against corruption cases to ensure transparency and public trust in electricity services across rural areas of Hassan district. officials added. case under investigation continues further

Osmanabadi goat centre planned in Chittapur taluk

Chittapur

Officials inspected land at Ladlapur village in Chittapur taluk for proposed Osmanabadi goat breed development centre. We are told the site is near National Highway 150 and found suitable for project work. It will help better transport and smooth operations. After land transfer construction will start after budget approval. Officials asked Tahsildar Nagaiah Hiremath to complete survey and submit report.

Wodeyar Express halt brings relief in Ramanagara

RAMANAGARA

Passengers in Ramanagara have received good news as the Wodeyar Express, running daily between Bengaluru and Mysuru, will now stop at Ramanagara railway station.

For years, thousands of daily commuters between the two major cities had been facing difficulty due to the train not having a stop in Ramanagara. Locals had repeatedly requested a halt to make travel easier.

Responding to these demands, Minister V. Somanna has approved the stoppage of the train at Ramanagara. The decision is expected to bring major relief to regular passengers, especially office-goers and students who depend on rail travel.

The move received support from several leaders, including District In-charge Minister Ramalinga Reddy, MP Dr. C. N. Manjunath, MLA Iqbal Hussain, and other local representatives who backed the long-pending demand.

Officials review Magadi government hospital management

MAGADI

Magadi government hospital health protection committee meeting was held at Dr B R Ambedkar Hall in the town hospital where important issues were discussed regarding patient care and hospital management.

Kempegowda Balekate, director of the committee, said government hospitals should give better treatment than private hospitals and should increase respect for patients and staff. He asked for full details of all purchases made for the hospital and said transparency must be maintained in all spending. He also said complaints of discrimination among nurses should be checked and equal treatment must be ensured for all workers. He said daily wage workers were being used more while D group workers were not given equal work and warned that only hardworking staff should be retained. He questioned why hospital problems were not being properly reported and said issues should be brought monthly to MLAs and committee members. Concerns were raised about ambulance use and delays in sending emergency patients to Bengaluru hospitals for treatment. He said cleanliness must be improved, garbage should be collected daily, and contractors for cleaning and maintenance should attend meetings. Allegations were discussed about a generator worth eight lakh rupees being sold for two lakh rupees and the matter was brought before the committee. He said patients should be treated first after basic tests and free treatment should be given to very poor people when needed. Complaints about poor quality food, rotten bananas and incorrect food quantity were raised and officials were asked to check the issue carefully. Hospital administrators said surgeries are being done daily, medicines are available, and more than nine hundred patients are treated every day. They also said there is a shortage of anesthesia doctors and steps are being taken to improve staff and services. Officials said Group D staff issues, ambulance services under 108, limits on scans, and plans for infertility operations were also discussed. Doctors said regular inspections are helping improve hospital functioning and ensure better care for patients in Magadi. Several doctors and committee members attended the meeting and agreed to work together to improve hospital services further in future plans.

Hunsur hosts inter-caste community meal event

HUNSUR

Hunsur Brahmin Street witnessed a unique inter-caste community meal aimed at eradicating untouchability, organised at Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple under the Muzrai Department. Tahsildar Manjunath said the event reflects efforts to end caste discrimination that has continued for centuries. He said reformers like Basavanna and Dr B R Ambedkar inspired equality and social change.

Hunsur Municipal Commissioner Manasa said the joint meal sets an example for society and should be followed in every village to promote harmony and respect among communities. Officials, including Executive Officer Hongaiah, said Dr B R Ambedkar's vision of equality is being reflected through such initiatives. Taluk and social leaders praised the Brahmin family for opening temple access to Dalits.

Gururaj of the Brahmin community said unity between castes is necessary for social progress and to preserve cultural values. He said exclusion has harmed society and inclusion will strengthen harmony. Dalit representatives said the event gave them dignity and hope, as communities that were once separated shared a meal inside the temple premises. They thanked organisers for the gesture of equality.

Several officers, social leaders, and villagers participated in the programme, making it a large community gathering. Participants said the initiative sends a strong message against untouchability.

Organisers said the programme aims to encourage social equality and break long-standing barriers between communities. They added that such events can help reduce discrimination and build trust in rural areas. Local residents expressed hope that more such initiatives will continue in the future and strengthen unity across Hunsur taluk. Officials said continued awareness and cooperation will ensure lasting social change and equality in society.

Widow murdered in Sakleshpur taluk village

HASSAN

A 35-year-old widow was allegedly murdered in Attihalli village of Sakleshpur taluk after a man attacked her for refusing to consent to sex. The accused has been arrested, police said.The deceased has been identified as Ramya A. R., while the accused is a 41-year-old man named Chandra from the same village. According to police and the complaint filed by her brother, Ramya had lost her husband two years ago and was working as a home nurse in Bengaluru. She had come to her native village recently to attend a family funeral. During her stay, the accused allegedly forced himself on her. When she refused, he attacked her, causing severe internal injuries. She later developed serious stomach pain and was admitted to hospitals in Sakleshpur and Hassan, but died during treatment.

Mandya focuses on summer irrigation and water supply

MANDYA

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner of Mandya district at the District Commissioner's office hall. In view of the summer season, officials directed steps to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply in both rural and urban areas of the district.They also ordered continuous power supply to drinking water projects and a minimum of seven hours of electricity for agricultural pump sets to protect summer crops.

Health department seeks cooperation to fight malaria

CHITRADURGA

Public cooperation with the health department is essential to completely eliminate malaria, said Hosadurga Taluk Health Officer Dr. Raghavendra Prasad. He spoke during the World Malaria Day programme held at Belaguru Community Health Centre in Hosadurga taluk.

Dr. Prasad said awareness and community participation play a major role in preventing the spread of the disease. He added that all government health programmes can succeed only when people actively support them.

The event was organized under the theme, "Let us take the necessary steps to end malaria and we will do it now." Officials used the occasion to educate villagers about preventive measures such as keeping surroundings clean and avoiding mosquito breeding.

Health staff including Dr. Sahana, Field Health Education Officer Lalithamma, senior health protection officers Vijiamma and other primary health workers, along with ASHA workers and villagers, took part in the programme. They also discussed ways to strengthen awareness activities in rural areas for better public health outcomes.

Helpline addresses complaints across services, resolves many cases, urges villagers use it to improve transparency and rural governance

Gram Phone helpline transforms rural grievance response: Dr. Akash

CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga Zilla Panchayat's 'Gram-Phone' free helpline is giving new hope to rural people by quickly handling their complaints. Started on 20 November 2025, the service has already received around 300 complaints from villages across the district and resolved many of them in a timely manner. Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akash said the helpline is working effectively and helping citizens get faster solutions. People can call the toll-free number 1800-425-1978 to register their issues and receive updates through SMS.

Once a complaint is received, it is sent to the concerned department for quick action. So far, the helpline has handled cases including MNREGA 42, drinking water 84, sanitation 39, housing 14, panchayat administration 36, and e-Swathi 85. Officials said most grievances have been resolved promptly and efforts are ongoing to improve rural services further. Dr. Akash urged villagers to make full use of this free helpline to share their problems without hesitation. The initiative is expected to bridge the gap between villagers and government offices by reducing delays and improving transparency in service delivery. Authorities also said special attention is being given to drinking water issues as they remain the most common concern in many villages. The Zilla Panchayat believes that regular feedback through the helpline will help improve rural development programs in a faster and more effective way. Residents welcomed the service for quick response system.

TOYOTA DONATES HILUX BOOSTS FOREST PROTECTION EFFORTS

RAMANAGARA

Toyota Kirloskar Motor handed over two specially equipped Toyota Hilux vehicles to the Ramanagara forest division under Bengaluru South district in a programme held at Kanakapura.The initiative was part of Corporate Environmental Responsibility efforts aimed at strengthening forest protection and emergency response in difficult terrain areas across the state.Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar appreciated the donation and said such vehicles will help forest staff protect wildlife, respond to forest fires and improve safety during operations. Officials said the Hilux vehicles are fitted with essential equipment such as fire blowers and stretchers to support rapid action by emergency response teams in forest areas.Toyota Kirloskar Motor representatives said the initiative reflects its commitment to sustainability, conservation and support for frontline forest personnel working in challenging conditions. Forest department officials stated that the new vehicles will improve patrolling, wildlife protection and quick response during emergencies including human wildlife conflict situations.The programme was attended by senior officials from the company, forest department staff and local representatives who welcomed the support for conservation work in the region. expected that the donated vehicles will significantly strengthen forest protection activities in Ramanagara division .

SRINIVASPUR PREPARES FOR UPCOMING MANGO SEASON

SRINIVASPUR

Srinivaspur in Kolar district is getting ready for the mango season that will begin on May 15, bringing hope to farmers, traders, and workers. Known as the Mango Capital, the region grows mangoes on nearly 65,000 acres and supports many rural families. The market opening is expected to create a festive mood as preparations at APMC yards and private markets are almost complete.Officials are improving facilities like weighing, storage, and transport to help smooth trading during the peak season. Thousands of workers will find seasonal jobs in harvesting, sorting, packing, loading, and transport activities. Women also play an important role in sorting and packing mangoes across the region. Mangoes from Srinivaspur are sent to many states across India and also exported abroad. Popular varieties include Badami, Mallika, Baneesh, Dasheri, Kesar, and Imam Pasand, which are highly demanded. This year, farmers expect mixed yields due to changing weather conditions affecting some varieties. Despite this, varieties like Totapuri, Neelam, and Rajgira are expected to perform well.

POLITICAL HONOUR PROGRAM

Leaders call Yediyurappa key Karnataka figure

DEVANAHALLI

Chandranna described B S Yediyurappa as the leader who opened the gates of South India, and a felicitation program will be held near Chitradurga on May 9. A preliminary meeting was held at the BJP office in Devanahalli under the chairmanship of Ambarish Gowda to prepare for the event. He said that 1000 workers from Devanahalli taluk should participate and bus facilities have been arranged for their travel.

Leaders said Union Home Minister Amit Shah will also attend the program along with other party leaders. Party workers across the district are preparing to join the large scale gathering expected to strengthen support. The leaders said the event is meant to honor Yediyurappa's contribution to the growth of the party in Karnataka. They appealed to all workers to attend in large numbers and make the program a grand success.

Officials said arrangements are in place for smooth transport, security and seating for participants coming from different parts. The event is expected to highlight party unity and the legacy of leadership in Karnataka politics. Local leaders believe the program will energize workers and boost morale ahead of future political activities. Preparations are continuing and volunteers are coordinating with different teams to ensure proper execution of the event.

Party functionaries expressed confidence that the gathering will be one of the largest political events in the region. They urged discipline and cooperation.

QUICK READ

Akshat Pai named Udupi Youth Congress Leader

Udupi

Akshat Pai has been appointed as Vice President of the Udupi District Youth Congress to strengthen the organisation's work across the district. The appointment was made with the approval of All India Youth Congress leaders to energise party activities at the grassroots level in Karnataka. All India Youth Congress President Uday Bhanu Chib and General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Nigam Bhandari approved the selection. The party said the decision aims to strengthen youth participation and organisational reach in Udupi district immediately. Leaders expressed confidence that Akshat Pai will play an active role in mobilisation and outreach efforts.

Swavalambi Sarathi vehicles given to beneficiaries in Udupi

Udupi

Under the Swavalambi Sarathi scheme of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation, goods vehicles were handed over to beneficiaries in Kaup taluk. The distribution was done near the Kaup Taluk Panchayat building by MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty on Tuesday. Two beneficiaries, Sujindra from Ermal village and Suraj from Katapadi Enagudde village, received the vehicles. Officials said the scheme supports self-employment through transport-based income activities. Kaup Tehsildar Ananta Shankar, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Kari Vijay Kumar and corporation manager Shankar were present during the event and highlighted its role in improving rural livelihoods and economic independence.

Minister Vaidya orders swift response to water complaints

Minister ordered tanker supply in shortage areas, timely payments, and criticized slow Jal Jeevan Mission progress despite heavy spending

KARWAR

Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport and district in-charge Minister Mankal S Vaidya instructed officials to ensure that no village in Uttara Kannada district faces drinking water shortage and to respond immediately to public complaints regarding water supply.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the Kumta Deputy Divisional Officer's office hall where drinking water crisis and National Highway issues were reviewed.

The Minister said tanker water must be supplied in shortage areas and payments to suppliers should be cleared within fifteen days. He expressed dissatisfaction over slow progress of Jal Jeevan Mission works despite crores spent across taluks without completion.He announced additional funds including grants under task force and assured that more support will be released if needed for drinking water projects. MLA Bhimanna Nayak highlighted shortages in Sirsi and Siddapura gram panchayats where lakes are drying and supply systems have failed.

The Minister directed setting up helpline numbers in tahsildar and panchayat offices for quick response. He also expressed concern over long pending National Highway works between Karwar and Bhatkal which remain incomplete even after fifteen years.

He ordered immediate submission of pending proposals and faster approvals to speed up construction before monsoon. He stressed that at least one layer of road surfacing must be completed to ensure smooth traffic during rains. Officials were also instructed to clean drains and remove dangerous trees near schools and public areas.District Collector K Lakshmi Priya and senior officers including police and forest departments attended the meeting and reviewed development works and safety measures across the district. The Minister urged coordination between departments to prevent water crisis during monsoon and ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water electricity and road connectivity in rural areas of the district. He also warned that negligence in infrastructure maintenance will not be tolerated and asked officials to submit weekly progress reports to the district administration. Public representatives said drinking water and highway issues must be solved before monsoon for safety and convenience of citizens across the district. Officials assured swift action on all pending works immediately nationwide coordination effort.

Black magic ritual targets senior forest officer

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A wave of fear has gripped the town of Balehonnur after an Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) discovered a disturbing black magic ritual performed at his doorstep. The incident, which took place outside the home of ACF Mohan, is being treated by police as a serious attempt at intimidation.

The officer discovered a smashed earthen pot near his entrance gate. Inside the remains were photographs of both the officer and his jeep driver, smeared with turmeric and vermilion. The symbolic nature of the ritual, using personal photos in a superstitious setup, has caused deep anxiety for the officer's family and colleagues in the forest department.

Local police arrived quickly to document the scene.

Child labour to be completely eliminated says Dr Kumar

MANDYA

District Collector Dr Kumar has said education must be made compulsory for all children and child labour must be completely removed from society. He was speaking at a district level meeting of the child labour task force held at the District Collector office hall in Mandya. He directed officials to identify children working in garages, hotels and factories and take legal action against owners who employ them. He also said officials must visit schools and meet parents of children who are frequently absent and ensure they return to education.

According to reports, the district conducted 951 inspections between April 2025 and March 2026 under the Child Labour Act. Officials said 40 juvenile workers were rescued and FIR cases and court cases were registered against violators in the district. He said awareness programs must be held at taluk level to stop child labour and support education and skill training for rescued children.

Senior civil judge Anand said meetings should be held every three months and awareness drives must continue against child labour and child marriage. Officials also said awareness work included street plays, pamphlets, wall writings and gram panchayat programs across the district during 2025-26. Many officials including police, labour, social welfare and child welfare department officers attended the meeting. He emphasized that children working below the age of 14 must be identified immediately in all sectors and strict action should be taken against employers without delay.

Authorities were also told to ensure every rescued child is enrolled back in school and provided counselling support for rehabilitation and better future opportunities. The collector said that preventing child labour is a shared responsibility of government departments, local bodies and the public to build a safer society. Officials said inspections will continue in the coming months to eliminate child labour completely from the district and improve school attendance.

District conducted 951 inspections, rescued 40 child workers, filed cases, and urged awareness programs to prevent child labour and support education and skills.

They also requested public cooperation to report any child labour cases immediately to help protect children and ensure education for all. The meeting concluded with a call for stronger coordination among departments and regular monitoring to ensure full implementation of child protection laws properly effectively.

MLA urged for timely and quality work, said phased development in Bidar South, residents welcomed project improving connectivity, education, health and trade

Bidar MLA launches CC road construction work

BIDAR

Roads are an important link for development, said Dr. Shailendra Beldale, MLA of Bidar South constituency, while launching CC road construction work in Rajagira village. The project costs about Rs 75 lakh and aims to improve rural transport and daily movement of people. Roads are not just transport paths but also the main support for economic and social growth, he said. He said good road infrastructure improves living standards and connects villages with markets and services. The MLA instructed officials to complete the work on time and ensure quality construction without delay. He said development works will continue across Bidar South constituency in a phased manner based on public needs. Local leaders and residents welcomed the project saying it will improve connectivity and reduce travel time. Several public representatives and villagers including Suresh Mashetti, Vijayakumar Patil Gadagi, Suryakant Patil and others attended the event and appreciated the initiative. They said better roads will support education, health and trade activities in rural areas. The MLA said his focus is on strengthening basic infrastructure in villages and ensuring equal development across all areas. He added that timely completion of works will be monitored strictly to avoid delays and ensure public benefit. Residents expressed happiness over the start of the project and said long-pending demand for better roads is finally being addressed. Officials said the CC road work will improve safety and ease of transport especially during rainy season in rural areas. The MLA concluded by saying that development in rural areas remains his top priority

Fire disaster mock exhibition held at Government college

CHITRADURGA

As part of International Firefighters' Day, a fire disaster management mock exhibition and triage drill was held at Government Arts College in Chitradurga on Tuesday.

The program was jointly organized by Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department, Indian Red Cross Society, District Health and Family Welfare Department, and the college NSS unit to create awareness about emergency response and disaster safety. Fire officers demonstrated rescue techniques, while medical staff explained the triage method used to treat injured people during accidents and fire emergencies.

District Fire Officer Somashekhar V. Agadi, Fire Station Officer Narendra, and their teams conducted live demonstrations of safety operations for students and participants. Health department doctors also briefed participants on emergency first aid and quick response methods that can save lives during disasters.

Indian Red Cross Society district secretary Mazhar Ullah, joint secretaries U C Girish, Dr Santosh Ujjanappa, Bharat, and college principal Prof Tarini Shubhadayani attended the event. NSS officer Dr Prasad and volunteers played an active role, making the mock drill a successful awareness program for the public and students.

The college administration said such programs help students understand real-life disaster situations and improve confidence in handling emergencies.

NEGLECTED HAKLADI ROAD BECOMES DANGEROUS FOR COMMUTERS

UDUPI

The Kattinamaki–Hakladi connecting road has turned into a nightmare for local residents, as years of official neglect have left the vital three-kilometre stretch in total ruins. Once a smooth path, the road is now a treacherous obstacle course of deep potholes and uneven surfaces that threaten the safety of everyone who uses it.

This crucial route links several villages, including Horne and Manikolalu, and serves as the primary access point to the Hakladi Primary Health Centre. For those seeking medical care, the journey itself has become a health hazard. Two-wheeler riders are particularly vulnerable, with many reporting near-misses and minor accidents daily due to the crumbling pavement.

The decay is also hitting the younger generation hard. Hundreds of students traveling to schools in Kundabarandadi and Hakladi struggle to navigate the broken path. To make matters worse, recent pipeline work near the local Panchayat building has left the road dug up. Heavy traffic has ground the remaining debris into fine dust, creating a choking cloud that plagues local shopkeepers and pedestrians.Despite being built 15 years ago, the road has seen no major repairs, even as traffic grew to over a thousand vehicles daily. Local Panchayat officials admit the situation is dire but claim they lack the budget for a full overhaul. They have submitted a proposal to higher authorities for funding.

Cash rewards for reporting illegal public littering

KARKALA

In a bold move to clean up rural neighborhoods, the Palli and Sanur Gram Panchayats have launched an innovative "bounty" system to stop illegal dumping. Authorities announced on Tuesday that any citizen who provides credible evidence of someone littering in public places will receive a cash reward of ₹2,000.

The initiative aims to stop the persistent problem of plastic and liquid waste being tossed along roadsides. Despite the tireless work of sanitation staff, irresponsible dumping has continued to plague the taluk. To claim the reward, residents must submit proof - such as clear photographs, videos, or detailed eyewitness accounts - that leads to the identification of an offender.While informants gain a reward, violators will face a heavy price. Anyone caught dumping waste will be slapped with an immediate fine of ₹5,000. Panchayat Development Officers Vishwanath and Pramila stated that this dual approach of rewards and penalties is designed to foster a sense of individual accountability. A similar crackdown in Miyar Gram Panchayat recently resulted in a successful fine, proving the system works.Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Prashanth Rao emphasized that maintaining a healthy environment is a top priority for the administration. Beyond the fines, the panchayats are running awareness campaigns to teach residents about proper disposal habits. Local leaders believe that by turning citizens into "cleanliness guardians," the villages can finally eliminate the eyesore of roadside trash.

FAIR LICENSING PROCESS

New online system simplifies gun license renewals

MANGALURU

The Dakshina Kannada District Administration is launching a new digital platform to fix the slow and frustrating process of renewing gun licenses. Developed under the e-Office framework, the online system is currently being tested and is expected to go live by the middle of May.

For months, local farmers have complained about long delays and unfair demands during the renewal process. Many claimed they were being asked to prove wildlife damage to their crops, a requirement they say does not exist in neighboring districts. The issue even reached the state assembly, leading the Home Minister to demand a faster, fairer solution for eligible license holders.

The new system aims to process applications within exactly 60 days. It creates a "one-stop" digital path where the Revenue, Forest, and Police departments can review documents at the same time. Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. explained that this integrated approach will allow residents to track their applications in real-time, much like a courier package, ensuring no file gets stuck on a desk.

While there are nearly 12,000 license holders in the district, hundreds of applications remain in limbo. Jayaprasad Joshi, head of the District Gun Users Association, welcomed the transparency but urged officials to stop asking for extra-legal proof of animal attacks.

By removing manual hurdles and the need for repeated office visits, the administration hopes this e-governance push will finally provide relief to the farming community while maintaining strict safety standards.

Mangaluru cracks down on dangerous party buses

MANGALURU

Authorities in Mangaluru are shifting gears to stop the rising trend of "party buses" that feature loud DJ systems and blinding laser lights. As the holiday season brings more tourists to the coast, many buses are being illegally modified into mobile dance clubs, creating serious safety risks for passengers and other motorists.Safety experts warn that these modifications are a recipe for disaster. High-volume music inside the cabin can shatter a driver's concentration and block out important road sounds. Even more alarming are reports of drivers joining in the dancing while behind the wheel. On the outside, powerful LED arrays and lasers can temporarily blind oncoming drivers at night, significantly increasing the chance of head-on collisions.There are also hidden technical dangers. Adding massive batteries to power heavy speakers and lighting rigs often leads to overheating.

QUICK READ

Chinese national arrested at Jogbani checkpost in Bihar's Araria

Patna

A Chinese national has been arrested near the Jogbani Integrated Check Post in Araria for allegedly attempting to enter India without valid travel documents, raising fresh concerns over border security. The accused, identified as Zhou Huan (born January 20, 1985), is a resident of Hunan province in China. He was intercepted near the ICP gate while riding a scooter bearing a Nepali registration number. Personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), who were on duty at the time, grew suspicious of his movements and detained him for questioning. During interrogation, Zhou Huan admitted to being a Chinese citizen but failed to produce a valid visa or any travel documents.

'3 Musketeers' of WB CEO office managing SIR to counting

Kolkata

The West Bengal Assembly elections of 2026 have been remarkable from various viewpoints, such as the peaceful polling in contrast to the state's history of electoral violence and an unprecedented voting percentage. This achievement has been facilitated by three officials in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), who have discreetly overseen all operations as behind-the-scenes coordinators from start to finish. Starting from the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise since November last year to voting and declaration of the results, everything went on so smoothly because of the adept administrative handling by The Three Musketeers in the CEO's office -- CEO of West Bengal, Manoj Kumar Agarwal; special poll observer, Subrata Gupta; and special police observer, N.K. Mishra.

NDA Secures Historic Mandate in Assam Assembly Elections

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has welcomed the resounding victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance in Assam

GUWAHATI

Reacting to the election results, Sonowal, the Member of Parliament from Dibrugarh, extended his congratulations to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for successfully leading the alliance to a landslide win. He also expressed gratitude to the people of Assam for delivering what he described as a historic mandate in favor of the BJP. According to Sonowal, the outcome reflects the widespread acceptance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development agenda across the state.He emphasized that the scale of the victory demonstrates the deep trust placed by citizens in the so-called double-engine government, highlighting its consistent focus on inclusive growth, infrastructure development, and effective welfare delivery. Sonowal stated that the renewed mandate would further accelerate Assam's progress and strengthen governance initiatives aimed at long-term stability and prosperity.Calling the result more than just an electoral triumph, Sonowal described it as a responsibility to serve with greater dedication and commitment. He underlined the importance of collective effort in sustaining the momentum of development and assured that the

NDA government would continue prioritizing economic growth, youth empowerment, infrastructure expansion, and social harmony across the state.The senior leader also acknowledged the significant role played by grassroots party workers, whose sustained engagement with the public helped translate governance achievements into electoral success. He credited their dedication as a key factor behind the alliance's impressive performance.Sonowal further expressed appreciation for the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the leadership of BJP President Nitin Nabin, noting their contributions to the party's strong performance not only in Assam but also in other regions. He reaffirmed his commitment to working tirelessly toward building a developed and self-reliant Assam, aligned with the broader vision of a stronger India.

Delhi CM Visits Vivek Vihar Fire Site, Assures Support to Victims

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday visited the site of the devastating fire in Vivek Vihar that claimed nine lives, offering condolences to grieving families and assuring full government support in the aftermath of the tragedy.

NEW DELHI

During her visit, Gupta met survivors and bereaved relatives, expressing solidarity with those affected by the incident. She assured families that the Delhi government stands firmly with them in this difficult time and will extend all possible assistance for relief and rehabilitation. The Chief Minister's visit comes just days after the tragic blaze that shook the Vivek Vihar locality, leaving several injured and nine people dead, including a toddler.

Earlier, reacting to the incident, Gupta had expressed deep sorrow, describing the fire as extremely tragic and distressing. She noted that the injured were receiving treatment at nearby medical facilities and conveyed her prayers for their speedy recovery. Extending her condolences to the families of the deceased, she said she hoped they would find the strength to endure the immense loss.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the coordinated response of various agencies involved in rescue and relief operations. She stated that senior officials from the local administration, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, Delhi Fire Service, and Delhi Police were actively engaged in handling the situation with urgency and efficiency.

The fire broke out early Sunday morning at around 4 A.M. on the second floor of a four-storey residential building in Vivek Vihar. Authorities quickly responded, dispatching 14 fire engines to the scene. The blaze was eventually brought under control by approximately 6 A.M. after intensive firefighting efforts.

Rescue teams evacuated around 15 people from the building. While several sustained minor injuries and were shifted to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for treatment, nine individuals lost their lives in the incident.

Police and fire officials have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire. Preliminary findings have confirmed the casualties, and authorities continue to assess the circumstances surrounding the tragedy while ensuring support for the affected families.

Allies Distance Themselves from Vijay as TVK Falls Short of Majority

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, conducted in a single phase on April 23, witnessed a four-cornered contest involving Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), Naam Tamilar Katchi, and TVK. The results, declared on May 4, placed TVK ahead with 108 seats in the 234-member Assembly, but still 10 seats short of the majority mark required to form the government.

Senior leaders from parties aligned with the DMK have ruled out any post-poll alliance with Vijay's party. Vaiko, General Secretary of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), categorically stated that there is no intention among alliance partners to move towards TVK, effectively closing the door on potential collaboration.

Echoing this stance, Thol.Thirumavalavan, leader of Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), highlighted the long-standing ideological alignment between his party and Left groups. He emphasized that their political journey has been rooted in shared principles and that no consideration has been given to supporting TVK so far.

Further complicating the situation, Premalatha Vijayakanth, leader of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), refrained from committing support. While acknowledging Vijay's close personal ties with her late husband, Vijayakanth, she reiterated her party's independent ideological stance. DMDK, which contested 10 seats as part of the DMK alliance, secured victory in only one constituency.Premalatha also drew a historical parallel to the 1962 elections, when C. N. Annadurai's defeat led the DMK to refrain from celebrations, noting that a similar subdued mood prevails now amid reported setbacks for DMK President M. K. Stalin.Amid the evolving political deadlock, Vijay has initiated internal consultations at the party's Panaiyur office in Chennai, meeting newly elected legislators and senior leaders. With no firm assurances from potential allies, the coming days are expected to be crucial as TVK explores.

Delhi Crime Branch busts counterfeit branded garments racket at Vasant Kunj

NEW DELHI

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J&K Police arrest govt employee involved in forgery, illegal appointments

SRINAGAR

The J&K Police's Crime Branch said on Tuesday that it has arrested a government employee involved in a fraud case of forgery and illegal appointments.Officials of the Crime Branch Jammu said that the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir has arrested a Health Department employee in connection with a long-pending fraud case involving alleged forgery and illegal appointment.The arrest was made in FIR No. 19/2017, registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, and 471 of the Ranbir Penal Code at Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir, now designated as EOW Kashmir.

A day after victory, Suvendu Adhikari outlines new Bengal govt's development roadmap

KOLKATA

A day after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s massive victory in the West Bengal Assembly polls and his personal victory against Mamata Banerjee, the outgoing Leader of Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, has issued a statement outlining the government's vision and roadmap under the BJP government for the overall development of the state.In a statement shared on his social media platform X on Tuesday, he conveyed a nuanced message, even advocating for the constructive participation of the opposition in this developmental journey, where public service will be the central focus.The BJP's commitment is to a developed, prosperous, and secure West Bengal. We are resolute in fulfilling our promises. By taking everyone along, we will build a healthy, beautiful, and advanced state. Serving the people of the state will be the primary goal of the new government, Adhikari read. In the statement, he has also thanked the people of West Bengal for giving him the opportunity to govern the state for the first time since independence by keeping faith with the pre-election development promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited
9th Floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009
Tele-:080-23118888 Website: https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in
e-mail: rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com

No.RGHCL 01/TECH (GEN)/24/2026-27 Dated: 05.05.2026

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPP Portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through KPP Portal from the eligible contractors.

Last date for submission of bids on 19.05.2026

Sl. No.	Name and Place of Work	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Post Metric Boys & Girls Hostel Building Works (G+1 Floor) for Minorities at 04 Various Locations in Bidar District. (Fixed Price No Variation) – Package – 3 (Halladkeri, Chikkapete-2, Humnabad) (Fixed Price No Variation). **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT60/ CALL-2**	1544.56	15.44
2.	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School at 3 Locations (School Building at each locations in G+2 floors and other infrastructure works) for Minority Department in different Taluks of Haveri District.– Package – 5 (1) Naregal Place, Hanagal Taluk, 2) Tadasa Place, Shiggavi Taluk, 3) Tiluvalli Place, Hanagal Taluk **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT71**	1506.57	15.07
3.	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (G+2 Floors And Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Bellur Cross, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District - Package – 7 **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT72**	502.19	5.02
4.	Construction of Moulana Azad School (G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Mailuru Grama, Bidar Taluk, Bidar District - Package – 1 **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT73**	513.57	5.13
5.	Construction of Moulana Azad School (G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Hulaguru Grama, Shiggavi Taluk, Haveri District - Package – 2 **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT74**	513.57	5.13

further information visit :
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/
Sd/- General Manager (S D)
DIPR/CP/RO509/AAPL/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Bangalore Rural Division, Email-id: eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com

NO.EE/RWS&D/BNGR/Yettinahole-DPR/2026-27 DATE: 02.05.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
No.03/2026-27, Dt: 02.05.2026 (Through KPP Portal only)

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Bangalore Rural Division invites short e-Tender in Two Cover system for Providing Consultancy Services for preparation of Preliminary Scheme Report (PSR), Concept Note with Technical Specifications and Cost estimates for Multi village Drinking Water Supply Schemes under DBOT model to rural habitation of Bengaluru Rural District from Yettinahole source through KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal for the Below Mentioned Work.

Description: Providing Consultancy Services for preparation of Preliminary Scheme Report (PSR), Concept Note with Technical Specifications and Cost estimates for Multi-village Drinking Water Supply Schemes under DBOT model to Rural Habitation of Bengaluru Rural District from Yettinahole source. Amount put to Tender (Rupees in Lakhs): **202.29.** Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees): **5,00,000/-.** Registered Agencies: **Registered Engineering Consulting Firm.**

Calender of Events:

1. Downloading of document through portal: **02.05.2026 to 18.05.2026 Time: 17.00 hrs.**
2. Prebid meeting: **06.05.2026 Time: 11.00 hrs.**
3. Date of Opening Technical Bid: **19.05.2026 Time: 17.05 hrs.**
4. Date of Opening Financial Bid: **22-05-2026 Time: 11.00 hrs.**

For more details this office may please be contacted during Office Hours and also through by clicking **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural District
DIPR/CP/RO510/AAPL/2026-27

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PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS GIVES US STRENGTH: RAGHAV CHADHA

NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP, Raghav Chadha, on Tuesday met President Droupadi Murmu along with three fellow MPs and raised concerns over alleged misuse of state machinery by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Punjab government following their decision to merge with the BJP.In a statement after the meeting, Chadha said the delegation conveyed to the President that two-thirds of their MPs had exercised their constitutional right to leave AAP and join the BJP but were now facing what he described as targeted harassment.We conveyed how the AAP's Punjab government is misusing state machinery to target us for exercising our constitutional rights, after two-thirds of MPs chose to merge with the BJP. The party that once cried vendetta is now practising its most toxic form, he said.Chadha said the MPs drew reassurance from the President's response. We take strength from the President's assurance that constitutional rights and democratic choices must be respected, he added.Launching a sharp attack on AAP, he remarked that the party's conduct had turned vindictive after their exit.

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayath, Chamarajanagar
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
DC Office, Room No.121, Chamarajanagar
Phone: 08226-222855, E-Mail: dswochanagards@gmail.com,

No: DD:SWD:CHN:CR:2025-26 Dated: 30.04.2026

Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar District, KPPP Mentor Re-Tender Invited for the provision of Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar, KRIES SCHOOLS SIRIDHANYA Food Re-Tender Maximum Estimated Rs.100.56 lakhs (1 crore fifty six thousand) offers in the tender invited by KPP Portal, which can be downloaded online on: 02.05.2026 TO 16.05.2026 Till 5.30 PM, Last Date for Submission of Tenders: 16.05.2026 Till 5.30 PM, Bid Opening Date: 18.05.2026 After 10.30 AM and more Further changes to this notification will only be published by E-Procurement.

For More Information/Details Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** Website Or Contact Department Social Welfare Office, Chamarajanagar,

Deputy Director,
Dept. of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar

NO: DIPR/CHANAGAR: 88/2026-27

'Just PR exercise won't help': Cong MP Jebi Mather on CPI-M's ouster from Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress MP Jebi Mather on Tuesday attributed the defeat of CPI-M-led Left Democratic Alliance (LDF) in the Assembly polls to their "corrupt PR exercise", saying public understands real work. Mather, a Rajya Sabha member, was hopeful that the Congress's performance in Kerala would "trigger" victory in the 2029 Lok Sabha polls. Mather termed the Congress-led United Democratic Alliance's (UDA) comeback in Kerala as a "spectacular victory gifted by the people".

QUICK READ

TN, Kerala results show strength of Indian democracy

New Delhi

Shadanand Chaudhary, founder of political think tank 'LeaderTank', on Tuesday described the outcomes of the recently held Assembly elections as strength of democracy, stating that they show people hold power.

Reacting to the broader electoral picture, Chaudhary contrasted developments in different states. Tamil Nadu shows now a new leader has come into the arena, and it shows the strength of Indian democracy, he said.

He added that political change in Bengal was expected after multiple terms in power.

Obviously, Mamata Banerjee should go because there was no point for her to keep continuing, she already served three terms, she already showed the public what she can do.

Delhi High Court to Appoint Amicus Curiae in Liquor Policy Case

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday indicated it would appoint three senior lawyers as amicus curiae to represent Aam Aadmi Party leaders

NEW DELHI

The development came during the hearing of the CBI's plea challenging a trial court's decision to discharge the accused in the controversial liquor policy case. The bench, headed by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, made it clear that it would ensure proper legal representation despite the absence of the AAP leaders from the proceedings. The court stated that it would formally appoint senior lawyers as amicus curiae, a legal mechanism used to assist the court in ensuring fairness and clarity in complex matters.Justice Sharma noted that an order regarding the appointment would be passed on Friday, after which the court would proceed with hearing the case. However, the bench refrained from commenting on the decision of the leaders to boycott the proceedings. The boycott follows an earlier order dated April 20, in which Justice Sharma dismissed applications filed by Kejriwal, Sisodia, and others seeking her recusal from the case. Subsequently, the leaders addressed a letter to the judge stating that they would not participate in the proceedings either personally or through legal counsel, invoking the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy of Satyagraha.Earlier, on February 27, a trial court had discharged Kejriwal, Sisodia, and 21 others, observing that the prosecution's case could not withstand judicial scrutiny and stood discredited. However, the matter took a turn on March 9 when the High Court, while hearing the CBI's appeal, put on hold the trial court's recommendation for departmental action against the investigating officer. The High Court also observed that certain findings at the stage of framing charges appeared prima facie erroneous and required further examination.With the appointment of amicus curiae, the High Court aims to move forward with the case while ensuring that legal arguments are adequately presented, even in the absence of the accused and their chosen representatives.

Jammu Jeweller Crafts Silver Lotus for PM After Bengal Victory

JAMMU

Chauhan, a long-time supporter of the Bharatiya Janata Party, said the creation symbolizes years of dedication and belief in the party's growth in eastern India. Reflecting on the achievement, he remarked that he had waited nearly 15 years to see the lotus bloom in Bengal, referring to the BJP's electoral symbol.To commemorate the milestone, Chauhan spent two months meticulously crafting the lotus using approximately three kilograms of silver. Working late into the night, he focused on shaping every detail by hand, ensuring that the final piece reflected both artistic precision and emotional significance.

According to Chauhan, the silver lotus is more than just a decorative item. He described it as a tribute to the perseverance of party workers who have contributed to the BJP's expansion in challenging political landscapes. He added that the gift is intended to honor Prime Minister Modi, whom he credits as a key force behind the party's success.Chauhan's wife, Anjali Chauhan, highlighted the level of commitment involved in completing the artwork. She recalled how he often skipped meals and remained fully absorbed in the process, dedicating himself entirely to the project. Her account underscores the personal effort and passion that went into creating the piece.The finished product is an intricately designed silver lotus, entirely handmade and polished to a fine finish. Chauhan now hopes that the symbolic gift will be accepted and displayed either at the Prime Minister's residence or at the party's headquarters in Delhi.For Chauhan, the creation stands as a lasting reminder of what he sees as a significant political moment, as well as a personal expression of loyalty and pride in the party's achievements.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the State Mission Director,
Swachh Bharath Mission (Urban) Bengaluru.
10th Floor Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560001.
Telephone: 080- 22867172 / 22866302, Fax: 080-22863576 /22861665
Email: swmcelldma@gmail.com,

Ref. No.: 1515222/DMA/SWM/SBM2/319/2024 Date: 04.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)-2.0 -Used Water Management Unit for the Interception and Diversion works in 42 urban local bodies of Karnataka state, in a two-cover system under DBOT Basis as per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000, details are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of works & Indent Numbers	Amount Put Tender in Rs. Lakhs (Excluding GST)
1.	**Package No-3** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Nipani, Mugalakoda, Naaganura, Sadalga, Sankeshwar, Saundatti-yellamma, shedbaala and Examba ULBs of Belagavi District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WT/WORK_INDENT57759)**	2759.43
2.	**Package No-10** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Ron, Nargund, Gajendragadh, Lakshmeshwara, Naregal and Mundaragi ULBs of Gadag District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57760)**	1730.61
3.	**Package No-12** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Bankapura, Hanagal, Hirekerur and savanur ULBs of Haveri District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57761)**	1848.86
4.	**Package No-18** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Babaleshwar, Devarahipparagi, Indi, manuguli, Muddebihal, Sindgi and Thikota ULBs of Vijayapura District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57762)**	1762.90
5.	**Package No-5** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Chamarajanagar and Gundlupet ULBs of Chamarajanagara District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57763)**	615.34
6.	**Package No-11** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Channarayapatna and Sakleshpura ULBs of Hassan District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57764)**	852.79
7.	**Package No-13** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Chitpur, Kamalapura, Shahabad and yadrami ULBs of Kalburgi District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57766)**	947.70
8.	**Package No-20** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Hunsagi, kakkera and Kembavi ULBs of Yadagiri District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57767)**	1626.66
9.	**Package No-6** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Chintamani, Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapura and Bagepalli ULBs of Chikkaballapura District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56797)**	1563.16
10	**Package No-15** Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Sindhnur and Lingasugur ULBs of Raichur District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund **(DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56787)**	847.11

The tender is invited in accordance with two-cover system through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Interested qualified bidders/agencies are requested to participate within the date specified on the KPP portal. Any information can be obtained only through the KPP portal.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/501/Zen/2026-27

Mahua Moitra Breaks Silence After BJP's Bengal Sweep

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Tuesday acknowledged the people's mandate while stating that her party had fought under extremely challenging conditions.

After maintaining silence for over a day during and after the counting process, Moitra took to the social media platform X to share her views on the election outcome. In her post, she emphasized that the decision of the electorate must be respected, stating that the will of the people remains paramount in a democracy.

Her reaction comes after the Trinamool Congress suffered a significant setback in West Bengal, with the Bharatiya Janata Party securing a decisive victory across multiple constituencies. Moitra noted that while the outcome was not in her party's favor, the TMC had put up a strong fight despite what she described as unimaginable odds on an uneven pitch.

Earlier on counting day, Moitra had been vocal about alleged irregularities, raising concerns over electronic voting machines and power disruptions at strongrooms. However, as results began to stabilize, she refrained from further public comments until her latest statement.

Her final social media update before the silence was posted early in the morning from Tehatta, located in her Krishnanagar Lok Sabha constituency, which ultimately went to the BJP. The delay in her response drew attention, given her usually outspoken presence on political developments.In her statement, Moitra reiterated her party's commitment to constitutional values and secular principles. She asserted that the Trinamool Congress would continue its political struggle to uphold a vision of governance rooted in the Constitution rather than what she termed brute majoritarianism.Concluding her remarks on a resolute note, Moitra affirmed that her party would remain steadfast in advocating for democratic ideals and safeguarding the country's secular fabric, signaling that despite the electoral setback, the TMC intends to remain an active force in national politics.

Migrant carriers, luxury parties and rising demand for high-end narcotics

NEW DELHI

Kerala's drug problem is huge. Not only has the state become a major transit and entry point, the consumer market, too, has gone up considerably. Under the scanner of the agencies are the suppliers, the carriers and now the consumers as well. High profile parties which are held in luxury hotels have come increasingly under the scanner in recent months.In addition to this, the police have learnt that the demand for marijuana has gone down considerably and this has been replaced by heroin, MDMA and ecstasy.An official said that drug smugglers are using multiple tactics in Kerala to smuggle and supply drugs. While the coastal route still remains the most active, the focus of the agencies has shifted to the migrant workers who are today the primary carriers of drugs.The same touts who get the migrant workers into Kerala are the ones who are telling these persons to supply the drugs.

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yettinahole Project Division No 4, Madhugiri. Tumkur Dist-572132,
Ph: 08137- 282112 E-mail: eeyetmadhugiri4@gmail.com
No:EE/VJNL/YHP/Div-no,4/Madhugiri/NIT-04&05/2026-27 Date : 24.04.2026

Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPP-Portal)

On Behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Karnataka invites two tender document system for Switching Station work under Yettinahole project for an amount of Rs.3089.65 Lakhs vide Tender notification No.04/2026-27 date: 29.04.2026 and In nelamangala Constituency 02 works amount Rs.253.40Lakhs & Rs.295.74Lakhs vide Tender notification No;05/2026-27 dated 29.04.2026 on "Percentage basis" through KPP-Portal. The contractor's can download and submit the completed bid documents through KPP-procurement website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per the dates mentioned below.

Sl No.	Calendar of Events	Dates for NIT-04/26-27 Date: 29.04.2026	Dates for NIT-05/26-27 ate:29.04.2026
a	The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document, i.e. the Tender Schedules, bid documents and other documents in the web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal- home on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) from	02.05.2026 to 11.05.2026 up to 5.00 PM	04.05.2026 to 14.05.2026up to 5.00 PM
b	The Last date of Submission of completed Tender Documents through KPP-portal.	11.05.2026 up to 5.00 PM	14.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM
c	Last date & time for tender Queries / Clarifications	06.05.2026 up to 3.00 PM	08.05.2026 up to 3.00 PM
d	Pre-Bid Meeting at office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri.	06.05.2026 upto, 3.00PM at office of the Managing Director, VJNL, Embassy Squire, bengalore	08.05.2026 at 11.00Am
e	Date & Time of Opening of Technical by Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri.	13.05.2026 at 11.00 AM	14.05.2026 at 11.00 AM
f.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid by Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri.	After Approval of Technical Bid	After Approval of Technical Bid

The undersigned reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
VJNL, YHP Division No.4,Madhugiri.

DIPR/TUM/55 /KSMCA/2026-27

Even Jhalmuri has symbolic significance in Bengal win, says BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal

NEW DELHI

BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal on Tuesday hailed the party's sweeping victory in West Bengal, linking it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach to common citizens and local traditions.Speaking in Delhi during a celebration event, Khandelwal said, Under PM Modi's leadership, the BJP secured an unprecedented victory in West Bengal. Even jhalmuri has symbolic significance in this win -- PM Modi's support for local products turned it into a symbol of connection with the common man. While campaigning in West Bengal, he saw a small shop of jhalmuri and PM Modi stopped and bought it. Mamata Banerjee mocked this gesture. Today, we're celebrating this victory with BJP workers, journalists, and prominent citizens in Delhi. Join us and enjoy jhalmuri.The BJP MP highlighted that the gesture resonated with voters and symbolised the party's grassroots connect in the state. He was referring to a campaign moment that drew attention during the election season, which later became part of the narrative.Khandelwal also underlined the broader political implications of the BJP's victory, saying, What the Prime Minister has said is extremely important. The BJP-NDA's victories across states will strengthen key political decisions. Issues like one nation - one election, curbing illegal immigration, and UCC -- these topics will rapidly progress now.His remarks come as the Bharatiya Janata Party celebrates a landmark electoral performance in West Bengal, marking a significant shift in the state's political landscape.According to the final results of the Assembly elections, the BJP secured 206 seats out of 293 declared constituencies, comfortably crossing the two-thirds majority mark of 196 in the 294-member Assembly.The All India Trinamool Congress finished with 81 seats, while the Congress won two seats and the CPI(M) secured one. The All India Secular Front (AISF) and the Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) won one and two seats, respectively.In terms of vote share, the BJP polled 46 per cent, followed by the Trinamool Congress at 41 per cent. The Left Front secured 4 per cent, the Congress 3 per cent, and others accounted for 6 per cent.The Trinamool Congress also failed to win a single seat in several districts, including Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Bankura and Purulia, and was defeated in all tribal- and Matua-dominated constituencies, underscoring the scale of the BJP's victory in the state.

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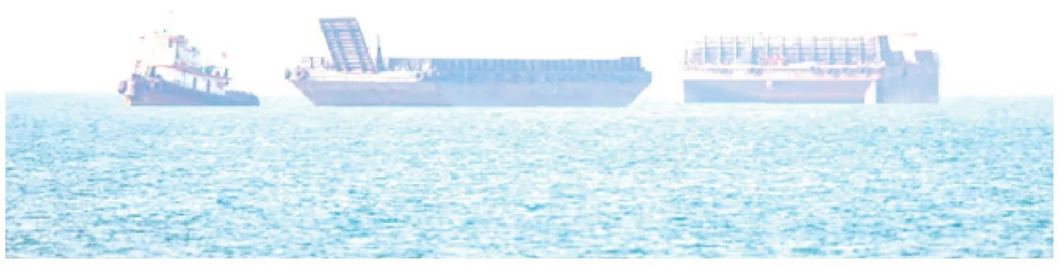
Tensions Rise in Strait of Hormuz as U.S. and Iran Exchange Fire

A fragile truce in the Middle East has come under severe strain after fresh military exchanges between the United States and Iran in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz raised fears of further escalation and disruption to global energy supplies

DUBAI



The renewed tensions follow reports of clashes in the Gulf region, where both nations are competing for control over one of the world's most critical maritime routes. The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow passage through which a significant share of global oil, fertiliser, and other commodities flows, has been at the center of rising hostilities in recent weeks.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf accused the United States and its allies of violating a four-week-old ceasefire, warning that such actions have endangered shipping and energy transit through the waterway. His remarks came amid escalating military activity that has reportedly disrupted commercial shipping and heightened global concerns.

According to U.S. officials, American forces destroyed several Iranian small boats, along with cruise missiles and drones, after deploying naval escorts for stranded tankers under an operation ordered by President Donald Trump. The mission, aimed at securing safe passage for commercial vessels, reflects Washington's effort to maintain freedom of navigation in the region.

The situation has been further complicated by reports of explosions and fires on multiple merchant ships in the Gulf, as well as missile strikes on an oil port in the United Arab Emirates, which hosts a major U.S. military presence. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has reportedly intensified its posture in the region, employing threats of mines, drones, and fast attack craft, while the United States has responded with a blockade of Iranian ports.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi emphasized that there is no military solution to the crisis and indicated that peace talks are ongoing with mediation efforts involving Pakistan. He cautioned against further escalation, warning that deeper involvement by regional actors could lead to prolonged instability.

Conflicting claims from both sides have made it difficult to independently verify events in the strait. While the U.S. military reported that escorted merchant ships successfully navigated the passage, Iranian authorities denied such movements and disputed reports of military losses. As tensions continue to rise, the situation in the Strait of Hormuz remains volatile, with significant implications for global trade, energy markets, and regional security.

U.S. Warns China Over Deportation Cooperation Ahead of Trump Visit

WASHINGTON

The United States has warned China of potential travel restrictions if Beijing does not step up efforts to repatriate its nationals residing illegally in the U.S., escalating tensions ahead of President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Beijing

According to a senior official from the Trump administration, China has recently slowed its cooperation in accepting deported nationals, prompting Washington to consider stricter measures. These could include increased visa restrictions, higher financial bonds for visa applicants, and tighter border controls affecting Chinese citizens seeking entry into the United States.

The warning comes just days before Trump's planned May 14–15 visit to Beijing, where he is expected to raise the deportation issue directly with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The visit is viewed as strategically significant, with Trump also aiming to secure trade concessions that could strengthen his position ahead of upcoming midterm elections.

Since returning to office, Trump has made immigration enforcement a central pillar of his administration, frequently threatening tariffs and sanctions against countries that do not cooperate in accepting deportees. The issue of repatriation has remained a long-standing point of contention between Washington and Beijing.

China has historically resisted U.S. requests to take back large numbers of its nationals who have overstayed visas or entered the country illegally. While Beijing had earlier indicated a willingness to accept confirmed Chinese nationals after verification, it has maintained that the process is complex and time-consuming.

U.S. officials noted that China accepted around 3,000 deportees through charter and commercial flights in early 2025. However, cooperation has reportedly declined over the past six months, raising concerns within the administration.

The senior official described China's stance as a failure to meet its international obligations, warning that continued inaction could have broader consequences. Inaction by the Chinese government will jeopardize future travel for law-abiding Chinese citizens, the official stated, signaling the potential impact on ordinary travelers.

As diplomatic engagement continues, the deportation issue is expected to feature prominently in discussions between the two leaders, alongside trade and broader bilateral relations.

With wood scarce, Gaza carpenters make simple beds from pallets

GAZA

In Gaza, ongoing restrictions on the entry of goods have forced local carpenters to rely on scrap wood and discarded shipping pallets to produce essential furniture. After nearly two years of conflict between Hamas and Israel, access to conventional construction materials has become severely limited or too expensive for most residents. In southern Gaza, particularly in Khan Younis, carpenters like Mohammed Wafi have adapted by dismantling used pallets to build beds, cupboards, and shelves for displaced families. With many people living in tents, demand for basic furniture has risen sharply, as families seek to keep belongings off the ground and protect themselves from pests such as rats and cockroaches. These conditions have increased the risk of disease and made even simple items like beds essential for survival.

However, the cost of materials has surged dramatically. Items like nails and hinges have become significantly more expensive, making even recycled furniture harder to produce affordably. Despite this, pallet-based furniture remains much cheaper than traditional sets, offering a more accessible option for struggling families. Production challenges persist due to shortages of electricity and raw materials, leading to delays and uncertainty in delivery. Meanwhile, Israel maintains restrictions on materials like wood, classifying them as dual-use items with potential military applications, while stating that efforts are made to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Russian attack kills five at Ukraine's Naftogaz gas production facilities, officials say

MOSCOW

A Russian overnight missile and drone attack on Ukrainian gas production facilities killed five people, including two rescue workers, Ukrainian officials said on Tuesday, as Kyiv and Moscow exchanged rival ceasefire proposals.

Serhiy Koretskyi, CEO of Ukraine's state energy company Naftogaz, said Russian forces struck gas production facilities in the Poltava and Kharkiv regions. Three Naftogaz employees and two emergency service rescuers were killed, while 37 people were wounded, he said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy condemned the attacks, accusing Moscow of cynicism after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a brief ceasefire.

It is utter cynicism to ask for a ceasefire in order to hold propaganda celebrations while carrying out such missile and drone strikes every single day leading up to it, Zelenskiy said.

Putin declared a two-day ceasefire on May 8 to 9, to coincide with events marking the anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War Two. Zelenskiy countered by proposing his own pause in fighting, starting on the night of May 5 to 6, without giving a timeframe of how long the truce should last.

Zelenskiy also said Russian forces struck critical infrastructure in the Dnipropetrovsk region, injuring three people and leaving thousands of families without electricity. Koretskyi said the Naftogaz facilities sustained significant damage and production losses in the attack, which involved drones and ballistic missiles. Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said the two rescue workers were killed when Russian forces carried out a follow up strike after emergency crews arrived to extinguish a fire caused by an initial attack on the gas facility in the central Poltava region.

Russia regularly carries out so-called double-tap strikes on rescue workers responding to initial attacks, Ukrainian officials say.

Klymenko added that 23 rescue workers were hurt. These are deliberate attacks on those who save lives, he said on Telegram.

Ukraine's air force said Russia had launched 11 ballistic missiles and 164 drones at Ukraine since 6 p.m. (1500 GMT). One missile and 149 drones were shot down or neutralised, it said, but eight missiles and 14 drones struck 14 locations.

Two confirmed and five suspected cases of the deadly Hantavirus have been reported aboard a cruise ship stranded off Cape Verde, prompting health concerns and precautionary measures, according to the World Health Organization

Hantavirus Cases Reported on Cruise Ship Stranded Near Cape Verde

AMSTERDAM

In its latest update, the World Health Organization stated that while the outbreak is serious, the risk to the broader public remains low. Hantavirus is typically transmitted through contact with infected rodents and only rarely spreads between humans, though limited human-to-human transmission has been observed in certain strains.

Authorities in Cape Verde have refused permission for the Dutch-flagged cruise ship, MV Hondius, to dock as a precautionary measure to prevent any potential spread of the virus. The vessel currently has around 150 passengers and crew members on board, leaving them effectively stranded at sea.

The cruise, which began in late March from Argentina's southern tip, had taken passengers to remote destinations including the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and Tristan da Cunha. Most of those on board are reported to be British, American, and Spanish nationals.

According to health officials, the seven confirmed or suspected cases include three fatalities, one critically ill patient, and three individuals with mild symptoms. The deceased victims have been identified as a Dutch couple and a German national. A British passenger who fell critically ill has been evacuated and is currently receiving intensive care treatment in South Africa.

Health authorities are closely monitoring the situation, while efforts continue to manage the outbreak onboard and ensure the safety of passengers and crew. The WHO has emphasized the importance of vigilance and preventive measures, particularly in confined environments such as ships, where infections can spread more easily.

As the situation develops, officials are working to assess the outbreak and determine the next steps, including possible evacuation or medical intervention strategies, while maintaining strict precautions to avoid wider transmission.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Benjamin Ralph Merton S/o Andrew Ralph Merton R/o 98, Lavelle Road, 3rd Cross, Bangalore-560001, I have changed the name of my minor son Jasper Ralph Merton Jha to Jasper Ralph Jha Merton aged 13 years.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SALONI KUMARI W/o ANSHUMAN PARASHAR, aged about 27 years, residing at Flat No: 07103,10th Floor,Wing 7, Sobha Dream Acres, Balagere Panathur Road, Bangalore, 560087, have changed my name from SALONI KUMARI to SALONI SINGH for all practical /documentation purposes, vide affidavit dated 14-10-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary R. N. Ghosal, Bokaro, Jharkkhand.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHAVENDRA S/o KRISHNA, R/o 2-220, Harischandra Marga, Maravanthe, Udupi, Karnataka-576224, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAGHAVENDRA KRISHNA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMIT CHAKRABARTI S/o MANTU GOPAL CHAKRABARTI R/o No A9-0902, Elita Promenade, 18th Main, J P Nagar, 7th Phase, Near Brigade Millennium, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560078, have changed the name of my minor son NISHCHAY CHAKRABARTI aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as NISCHEY A CHAKRABARTI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajnesh Kant S/O Ganga Dutt R/O H No.21/125,4th Main, Somasundarapalya, HSR Layout,2nd Sector, Bangalore South,PO:HSR Layout,DIST: Bangaluru, Karnataka -560102,have changed the name of my minor daughter Divyanshi to Divyanshi Vats aged 9 years.

NAME CHANGE

I. Mr. **ABDUL RAHMAN**. S/o Mr MOHIDEEN MALUNGU. Aged about 46 years. Residing at No 37. A Street 4th Cross Shivaji Road Shivajinagar Bangalore North, Bangalore-560051, Have Changed My Name From Mr. **ABDUL RAHMAN MOHAIDEEN MALANGU** To **Mr. ABDUL RAHMAN**. Vide affidavit Dated 08.04.2025 before Notary C.SHARADA. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARFA SIDDIQA (old name), a resident of NO 16, A BLK, FLAT 202, ACTION GROUND, NEW BAMBOO, BAZAAR, CROSS, SHIVAJI NAGAR, Bengaluru, 560051, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to ARFA SIDDIQ (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 04-05-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHISH AGARWAL S/o KAILASH PRASAD AGARWAL R/o Bren Northern Lights, D 605 D block, 6th floor, Prakruthi Nagar, Agrahara Village, Near Jakkur Lake, Yelahanka Jakkur, PO Jakkur, DIST Bengaluru Karnataka 560064, have changed the name of my minor daughter SAANVI AGARWAL aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as SAANVIE AGARWAL.

UK sanctions people, entities for recruiting migrants to fight for Russia against Ukraine

LONDON

Britain on Tuesday unveiled sanctions against 35 people and entities it said were involved in recruiting vulnerable migrants to fight for Russia against Ukraine and produce drones for use in the conflict.

The Foreign Office announced 17 designations under its global irregular migration sanctions regime, relating to what it said were trafficking networks facilitating the travel of people to be sent to the front line as cannon fodder.

The sanctions relate to the trafficking of people from countries including Iraq, Somalia, Syria and Yemen to fight in Ukraine, but also to travel to Poland and Finland for the purpose of causing destabilisation, the Foreign Office said.

Britain also added 18 designations under its Russia sanctions regime, several relating to the Alabuga Start programme, which the Foreign Office described as a Russian recruitment scheme that hires individuals from outside Russia, usually from economically insecure backgrounds.

TURKEY AND SAUDI ARABIA SET TO SCRAP VISA REQUIREMENTS

ANKARA

Turkey and Saudi Arabia plan to sign an agreement to scrap visa requirements for their citizens during talks between their foreign ministers in Ankara on Wednesday, a Turkish diplomatic source said on Tuesday. Relations between Ankara and Riyadh were badly damaged after the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, after Turkey accused senior Saudi officials of orchestrating the killing. The two sides have taken steps since 2020 to repair ties. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, are due to chair a meeting of the Turkey Saudi Coordination Council, during which the accord is expected to be signed for holders of ordinary and diplomatic passports, the source said.

MOSCOW INTERNET SHUTDOWN

Russia Restricts Mobile Internet in Moscow Ahead of Victory Day Parade

MOSCOW

Russia on Tuesday cut off mobile internet services across large parts of Moscow ahead of the annual Victory Day Parade, citing heightened security concerns over potential drone attacks linked to the ongoing conflict with Ukraine.

The move comes as authorities prepare for the May 9 celebrations marking the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. This year's parade has reportedly been scaled back amid fears of Ukrainian drone strikes, reflecting the evolving security environment as the conflict enters its fourth year since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Officials stated that the restrictions on mobile internet services were necessary to ensure public safety and protect critical infrastructure. However, the disruptions have significantly affected daily life in Moscow, with many residents facing difficulties in making digital payments, accessing navigation services, and communicating via messaging platforms.

Journalists in various parts of the capital reported widespread outages of mobile internet, although traditional voice calls remained functional in many areas. Mobile operators acknowledged that connectivity issues could persist in the coming days as security measures remain in place.

Major institutions also warned of disruptions. Sberbank, the country's largest bank, cautioned customers about potential issues with mobile-based transactions and messaging services. Similarly, the ride-hailing division of Yandex indicated that users might face problems booking taxis online due to connectivity limitations.

Internet monitoring platforms reported similar outages across several regions in European Russia, including Saint Petersburg, suggesting that the restrictions were not limited to the capital alone.

The measures come against the backdrop of intensified drone warfare between Russia and Ukraine, with both sides targeting infrastructure and strategic assets far from the front lines. On Tuesday, Ukrainian forces reportedly struck a major oil refinery in Kirishi, sparking a fire, while Russia claimed it had intercepted hundreds of drones overnight.

Critics of President Vladimir Putin argue that such internet restrictions are part of broader efforts to tighten domestic control during wartime. The Kremlin, however, maintains that the steps are purely precautionary, aimed at safeguarding citizens and ensuring the smooth conduct of national events.

As tensions persist, the situation highlights the growing intersection of security concerns and digital connectivity in modern conflict zones.

Zahaan sails to fourth straight national title

Mumbai's Zahaan Hemrajani secured his fourth consecutive O'pen Skiff U17 National title, winning seven out of eight races convincingly

MUMBAI

Mumbai's sailing prodigy Zahaan Hemrajani has once again dominated the waters, securing his fourth consecutive O'pen Skiff U17 National title. Facing a mix of tricky light winds and challenging choppy waves, Zahaan proved why he is the best in his class by winning seven out of eight races in a commanding performance. His near-perfect scorecard featured only one minor setback. During a nail-biting finish in one race, Zahaan fought from behind to cross the line first, only to receive a penalty for clipping a marker boat. While he was officially placed fifth for that round, the tournament's "discard rule" allowed him to drop that score, leaving him with an unbeatable final tally. This moment of grit perfectly highlighted the competitive fire that has fueled his four-year winning streak.

Under the guidance of the 24Seven Sailing program, Zahaan has spent the last year sharpening his technical skills and tactical mind. His ability to read the water and choose the fastest path has set him apart from his peers. Coaches say he is no longer just a "good sailor" but is evolving into a high-performing athlete who treats every challenge as a chance to learn.

With the World Championships in Italy just around the corner, this victory confirms that Zahaan is ready for the global stage. His mentor, Amish, noted that the young sailor is exactly where he needs to be. For Zahaan, the goal is now clear, taking his national success to the international level.

Manipur close in on quarter-final spot in NFC

RAIPUR

Manipur moved closer to the quarter-finals of the Swami Vivekananda U20 Men's NFC after a dominant 7-0 win over Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Salam Swamichandra Meitei scored a first-half hat-trick to lead the charge. In another Group B match, hosts Chhattisgarh drew 1-1 with Nagaland after an injury-time equaliser. Manipur now lead the group with six points and will face Chhattisgarh in a key clash. A draw will be enough for Manipur, while the hosts must win to qualify for the last eight stage of the tournament overall.

Noorali eyes glory at Asian para games

AHMEDABAD

India's Nurjahan Noorali, supported by Adani Sportsline, is competing across Europe and Asia to secure a top-six continental ranking for the 2026 Asian Para Games

India's top-ranked para table tennis star, Nurjahan Noorali, has embarked on a vital international tour across Europe and Asia. Supported by Adani Sportsline, the Ahmedabad-based athlete is competing in four major tournaments to secure her spot for the 2026 Asian Para Games in Japan this October.

Currently ranked World No. 27 and eighth in Asia, Noorali needs to break into the continent's top six to qualify. Her journey began recently in Montenegro and continues in Slovenia. This high-stakes campaign is the latest chapter in a remarkable comeback story. After being diagnosed with polio at age five, Noorali returned to the sport in 2022 and has rapidly climbed the rankings, recently defending her national title in Indore.

Balancing a professional career as a junior officer at Adani Airport Holdings, Noorali credited her employer for providing the flexibility needed to train. Her preparation is backed by a structured program that offers coaching, performance monitoring, and financial aid for global events.

"This phase is crucial," Noorali stated, expressing her determination to reach the top six. Her resilience has earned high praise from leadership at Adani Enterprises, who highlighted her grit and discipline as a model for emerging athletes. As she moves through the elite circuit in Slovenia and Taiwan this month, the focus remains clear: turning years of hard work into a historic qualification for her country on the world stage.

Young star Wu wins world snooker title

SHEFFIELD

China's Wu Yize has made history at the Crucible Theatre, defeating Shaun Murphy 18-17 in a breathtaking final to become the World Snooker Champion. At just 22 years old, Wu is now the second-youngest player to ever lift the trophy, trailing only the legendary Stephen Hendry.

The match was a roller-coaster of high-stakes drama, ending in a final-frame decider for the first time since 2002. Facing immense pressure, Wu displayed incredible nerves by potting a difficult red into the middle pocket before finishing with a brilliant break of 85. This victory marks the fourth consecutive year a first-time winner has claimed the title, signaling a major shift in the sport's hierarchy.

An emotional Wu dedicated the win to his parents, calling them the "true champions" for supporting his dream since he left school to pursue snooker. His father has been by his side throughout his journey, even sharing a tiny, windowless flat during their early years in England. After the grueling match, a weary Wu admitted he was so exhausted from the nerves that he simply wanted a long sleep.

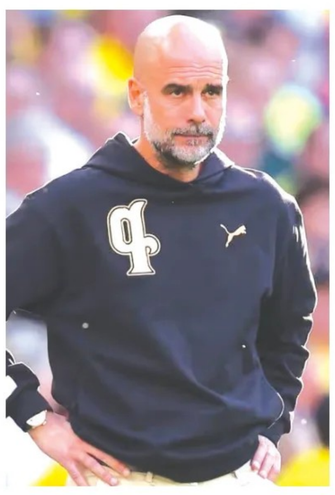
Shaun Murphy, a former champion himself, was gracious in defeat despite losing his fourth final in Sheffield. He praised Wu as one of the most talented players he has ever seen, admitting that the young star simply won the game through pure skill. With this win, Wu leaps to fourth in the world rankings, cementing his place as a leading figure in snooker's new era.

Guardiola vows to fight despite Everton setback

LIVERPOOL

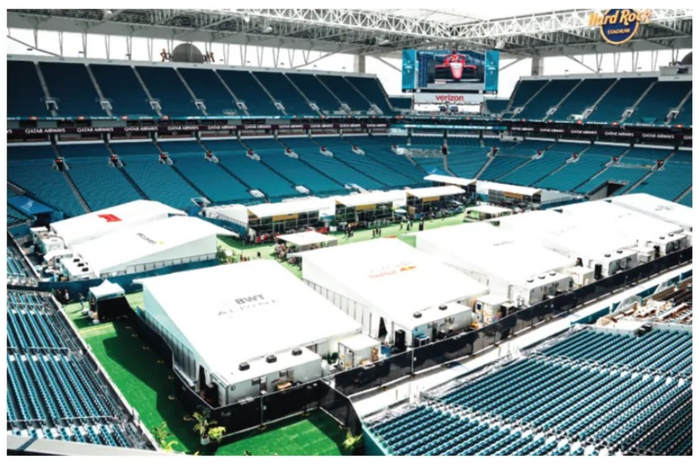
Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has warned that his side will not give up on the Premier League title, even after a chaotic 3-3 draw with Everton dented their championship hopes. The result leaves City five points behind leaders Arsenal with only four games remaining.

The match at Hill Dickinson Stadium was a tale of two halves. City dominated early on, leading at the break thanks to a Jérémy Doku strike. However, the game flipped during a disastrous thirteen-minute spell in the second half. Everton's Thierno Barry came off the bench to score twice, alongside a goal from Jake O'Brien, leaving the champions stunned and trailing 3-1.



Refusing to fold, City launched a late rescue mission. Erling Haaland pulled one back in the 83rd minute, and Doku secured his second of the night with a dramatic equalizer deep in stoppage time. While the comeback showed heart, Guardiola admitted that the title race is no longer in their hands.

"A point is better than none, but we wanted the win," Guardiola said after the final whistle. He praised his players' "never-die" attitude but noted that defensive errors and Everton's aggression proved costly. Guardiola emphasized that while the path to the trophy has become much harder, his team must maintain their focus and passion. City now prepares for a must-win clash against Brentford, hoping for a late twist in a season that is coming down to the wire.



Miami stadium races from F1 to soccer

MIAMI

The roar of Formula One engines has barely faded, but Miami's Hard Rock Stadium is already sprinting toward its next massive challenge, the 2026 FIFA World Cup. After hosting racing stars and legends like Lionel Messi this past weekend, the venue is undergoing a rapid makeover to swap high-speed tracks for world-class grass. The stadium, home to the NFL's Miami Dolphins, has a packed schedule with seven World Cup matches on the horizon, starting June 15. To meet FIFA's strict standards, crews are removing the temporary F1 hospitality tents to make room for a professional pitch. The transformation is a massive logistical puzzle, but the stadium is well-prepared for the tight deadline.

In a unique move, the Dolphins actually grow their own grass at a massive 96-acre sod farm located about 60 miles north of the arena. This specialized turf has been growing for months and is designed to handle the heavy footwork of global soccer stars. By mid-May, the grass will be harvested and transported to the stadium in a swift three-day installation process.

Once the sod is laid, FIFA experts will arrive to "stitch" the pitch, ensuring the surface is perfectly uniform for teams like Brazil, Portugal, and Uruguay. While the turnaround is quick, stadium officials are confident. Having hosted tennis, concerts, and football all in one season, they are ready to prove that Miami can pivot from the paddock to the pitch without missing a beat.

India U-18 hockey teams prep for Australia clash in Bhopal

Date	Women's Fixture	Men's Fixture
May 15	19:00 hrs	17:00 hrs
May 17	17:00 hrs	19:00 hrs
May 18	19:00 hrs	17:00 hrs
May 20	08:00 hrs	10:00 hrs

BHOPAL

The stage is set at the SAI Bhopal facility as the Indian Men's and Women's U-18 Hockey teams prepare to host Australia for a high-intensity four-match series starting May 15. This crucial exposure tour serves as the final testing ground before both teams head to Kakamigahara, Japan, for the U-18 Asia Cup later this month.

The series is the culmination of a rigorous national coaching camp that began on April 19. For the young athletes, playing against a powerhouse like Australia offers a rare opportunity to experience top-tier international competition and build the "match temperament" needed for the continental championship.

Coach Insights

Sardar Singh (Men's Coach):
The former India captain emphasized that the focus of the Bhopal camp has been on perfecting the "fundamentals and basics." He views these matches as a vital step for players to adapt to the demands of modern hockey. "These fixtures will play a key role in helping us identify the best possible squad to represent India at the Asia Cup," Singh noted.

Rani Rampal (Women's Coach):
Rani Rampal shared a similar vision, highlighting the importance of testing the players' learning under pressure. "The matches against Australia will give them a great chance to play at a higher level... It's an opportunity for each player to showcase their ability," she said. With the Asia Cup just around the corner, these matches at the Udhav Das Mehta Central Centre will be instrumental in fine-tuning combinations and selecting the final rosters that will fight for Asian glory.

Mercedes backs return of V8 engines

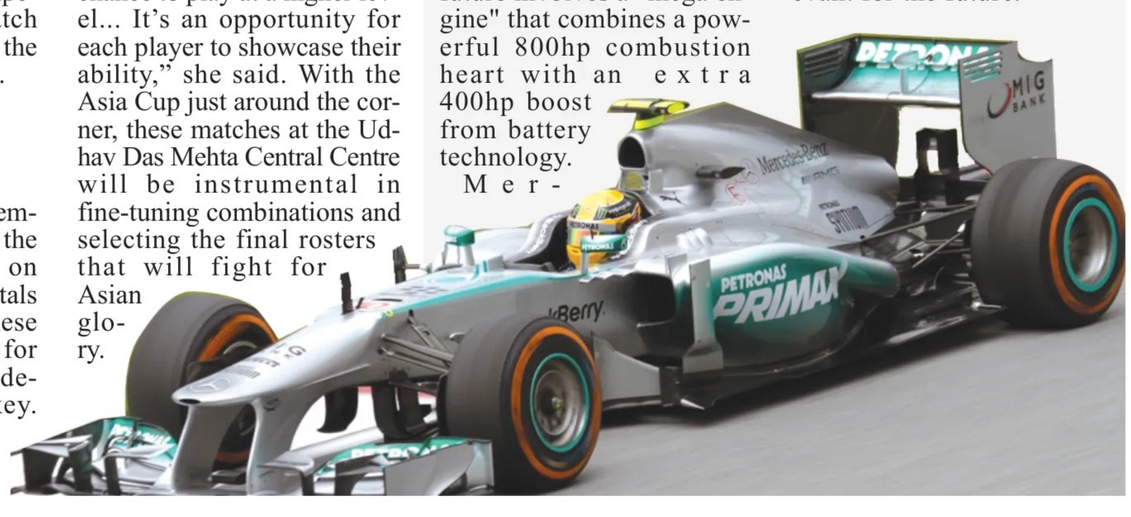
MIAMI

Formula One could soon sound a lot louder. Mercedes boss Toto Wolff has confirmed that the team is "absolutely up for" bringing back V8 engines by 2030. This follows a bold statement from FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem, who promised that the iconic, high-revving engines would return to the grid by 2031 at the latest.

The sport currently uses V6 hybrid engines, which some fans find too quiet and complex. While Wolff is excited about the nostalgic roar of a V8, he insists the move must remain practical. He argued that Formula One cannot ignore the "real world," where electric power is becoming the norm. His vision for the future involves a "mega engine" that combines a powerful 800hp combustion heart with an extra 400hp boost from battery technology.

Mercedes, which currently supplies engines to four teams, wants these changes to be well-planned to ensure manufacturers can afford the shift. Critics of the current V6 units often complain about "artificial" racing, where drivers must constantly manage battery levels instead of pushing to the limit. Recent rule tweaks have tried to fix this, but the call for a "real racing engine" is growing louder.

F1 last used V8 engines in 2013 before switching to the current hybrids. If the FIA and manufacturers can agree on a balanced design, the next decade could see the sport return to its roots while staying high-tech. For Wolff and Mercedes, the goal is simple, make the engines loud, fast, and relevant for the future.



Cricket final might move due to tickets

BENGALURU

The excitement for the IPL 2026 final has hit a major roadblock. While fans are eager to see the championship match in Bengaluru, a disagreement over seating for local politicians might force the game to move elsewhere.

Custom dictates that the defending champions, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, should host the grand finale. However, sources from the cricket board suggest that "political issues" are causing a massive headache. The trouble started when some local leaders demanded guaranteed VIP tickets for every lawmaker, claiming they should not have to wait in line like regular citizens.

To solve the tension, government officials offered three tickets per representative, but the debate continues. Some leaders insist the tickets are strictly for family and cannot be given away, while the cricket board remains worried about the pressure. If a solution isn't found quickly, officials warned they will move the final to a different city entirely.

On the field, the race is just as heated as the debate off it. Punjab Kings are currently leading the pack, while Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Rajasthan are all fighting for the top spots. Even though the players are performing brilliantly, the focus has shifted to the stadium seats.

Sánchez penalty rescues point for Bengaluru FC

NEW DELHI

Bengaluru FC maintained their unbeaten away record, fighting back to secure a 1-1 draw against a gritty Odisha FC. In a tense encounter at the PJN Stadium, a second-half penalty from Braian Sánchez proved decisive, canceling out an early strike from Odisha's Rahim Ali.

The match began with Bengaluru dominating possession, but it was Odisha who struck first. In the 34th minute, Lalrinfela Khiangte intercepted a throw-in and slipped a perfect pass to Rahim Ali. The forward kept his cool, slotting a low shot past goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu to give the "hosts" a surprising lead. Odisha's defense, led by Carlos Delgado, held firm under pressure to carry that advantage into the halftime break.

The momentum shifted immediately after the restart. Bengaluru substitute Soham Varshneya drew a foul in the box just two minutes into the second half, earning his side a lifeline. Braian Sánchez stepped up and hammered the penalty into the top corner, a strike so clean it earned him the Man of the Match trophy. Despite a late flurry of attacks from the Blues, Odisha goalkeeper Anuj Kumar made several vital saves to ensure the points were shared.

The result keeps Bengaluru FC in sixth place with 17 points, while Odisha FC remains near the bottom of the table in 13th. For Bengaluru, it was a story of missed opportunities and dominance without a knockout blow. Meanwhile, for Odisha, the hard-earned point provides a small bit of breathing room as they battle to climb out of the league's danger zone.

QUICK READ

April '26 auto retail sales rise 13% to 26.11 lakh units

Mumbai

India's automobile retail sector recorded its highest-ever annual sales in FY26, with total registrations reaching 2,96,71,064 units, marking a 13.30 per cent year-on-year growth, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Monday. The figures bring the domestic auto industry close to the 3-crore annual sales milestone, reflecting strong and broad-based demand across segments. FADA President C.S Vigneshwar said the growth was structurally driven by improving affordability, rising mobility demand across urban and rural markets, and a diversified powertrain mix. Among segments, two-wheelers led the recovery, surpassing their pre-COVID peak with sales of over 2.14 crore units, registering a 13.40 per cent growth. The rebound was supported by improved rural cash flows, better affordability and a wider product range.

Stocks rise as investors take heart from upbeat earnings, dip in oil

Singapore

Global stocks rose on Tuesday, taking some heart from a series of robust earnings, while simmering hostilities between the U.S. and Iran over the Strait of Hormuz kept the oil price well above $100 a barrel. Traders also had their eyes on the yen after the Japanese currency briefly jumped in the previous session, stoking speculation of another round of intervention from Tokyo. In Europe, the STOXX 600, rose 0.5%, lifted by brewer Anheuser-Busch, which beat forecasts with first-quarter results, and by shares in Italian lender Unicredit, which reported record quarterly profits. The U.S. and Iran launched new attacks in the Gulf on Monday as they wrestled for control over the Strait of Hormuz with duelling maritime blockades, not long after U.S. President Donald Trump launched a new effort to get stranded tankers and other ships through the vital energy-trade chokepoint.

Elon Musk settles SEC lawsuit over Twitter disclosures

Washington

Elon Musk settled the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's civil lawsuit accusing the world's richest person of waiting too long in 2022 to disclose his initial purchases of Twitter, now known as X. A trust in Musk's name will pay a $1.5 million civil fine, under the settlement disclosed on Monday in the Washington, D.C., federal court. Musk did not admit wrongdoing, and won't have to give up any of the $150 million he allegedly saved from the delay. The settlement requires approval by U.S. District Judge Sparkle Sooknanan, who in February rejected Musk's bid to dismiss the case. It ends more than seven years of fraught battles between Musk and the regulator, starting in September 2018 when the SEC charged him with securities fraud for tweeting he had secured funding to potentially take his electric car company Tesla private.

India, Japan Boost Healthcare Cooperation

India and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to deepening healthcare cooperation during the third Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Healthcare, focusing on building resilient health systems, strengthening medical supply chains, and advancing collaboration in digital health and innovation

NEW DELHI

The meeting, held on Tuesday, was co-chaired by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda and Japan's Minister in charge of Healthcare Policy Kimi Onoda. Both leaders emphasized the importance of bilateral engagement in addressing emerging healthcare challenges and enhancing the overall quality of healthcare delivery.

Nadda stated that the meeting underscored the shared commitment of India and Japan to strengthening collaboration in the health sector. He highlighted that the partnership is guided by the Memorandum of Cooperation in Healthcare and Wellness, which focuses on improving accessibility, reinforcing health systems, and promoting innovation for better health outcomes.

The minister also pointed to the broader vision of inclusive development, rooted in the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, as a driving force behind India's international collaborations. He described the Joint Committee Meeting as a key platform for advancing shared goals and fostering long-term cooperation in healthcare.

On her part, Onoda reiterated Japan's commitment to enhancing engagement with India through innovation, technology, and research. She expressed readiness to further strengthen bilateral ties and explore new avenues of collaboration in healthcare.

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava welcomed the Japanese delegation and emphasized that the India-Japan partnership is built on mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision for the future.

During the discussions, both sides explored major priority areas, including strengthening supply chains, expanding digital health initiatives, and developing human resources in the healthcare sector. The deliberations also focused on addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with India presenting its comprehensive response framework based on screening, continuum of care, and health promotion aligned with global Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting concluded with both nations expressing optimism about further strengthening their healthcare partnership, aiming to deliver improved health outcomes and resilient systems capable of addressing future challenges.

JLR India Cuts Range Rover Prices Ahead of India-UK Trade Deal

Jaguar Land Rover India has announced a significant reduction in prices of its flagship Range Rover models by up to Rs 75 lakh, aiming to pass on anticipated benefits from the proposed India-UK free trade agreement to customers

NEW DELHI

The company confirmed on Tuesday that the price cuts apply to completely built unit (CBU) models imported from the United Kingdom. The steepest reductions have been made in the premium SV portfolio. The Range Rover SV has been repriced from Rs 4.25 crore to Rs 3.5 crore (ex-showroom), while the Range Rover Sport SV now starts at Rs 2.35 crore, down from Rs 2.75 crore.

According to JLR India, the revised pricing reflects expected changes in import duties under the proposed India-UK free trade agreement. The company has chosen to implement these reductions in advance, signaling strong confidence in the agreement's rollout and its potential impact on the luxury automobile market.

Managing Director Rajan Amba said the move aligns with the company's customer-first approach, allowing buyers to benefit early from the anticipated duty revisions. He noted that the new pricing is expected to make the brand's high-end SV range more accessible and attractive to Indian consumers.

The company clarified that the updated prices are effective immediately and are limited to models imported from the UK. Locally manufactured vehicles, including the Range Rover, Range Rover Sport, Range Rover Evoque, Range Rover Velar, and Discovery Sport, will continue to be sold at existing prices as they are not affected by import duty changes.

Additionally, models such as the Defender and Discovery will also retain their current pricing since they are produced in Slovakia and fall outside the scope of the India-UK trade agreement.

Industry observers note that the move could further intensify competition in India's luxury car segment, as global automakers look to capitalize on favorable trade policies. JLR India expressed confidence that the anticipated free trade agreement will enhance the appeal of its aspirational portfolio and contribute to sustained growth in the Indian market.

The board chairman of Samsung Electronics has raised concerns over the potential economic impact of a planned general strike by unionised workers, urging both sides to resolve the dispute through constructive dialogue

SAMSUNG CHAIRMAN URGES DIALOGUE AMID STRIKE CONCERNS

SEOUL

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the chairman cautioned that the proposed strike could disrupt operations and negatively affect the company's business performance. He emphasized the importance of maintaining stability at a time when global economic conditions remain uncertain and competitive pressures in the technology sector continue to intensify.

The remarks come as tensions between management and labour unions have escalated over key issues, including wages, working conditions, and broader employee welfare concerns. The chairman underscored that prolonged industrial action could not only impact production but also have wider implications for supply chains and market confidence.

He called on union leaders and company representatives to engage in meaningful discussions to reach a mutually acceptable solution. Stressing the value of cooperation, the chairman noted that dialogue remains the most effective way to address grievances while ensuring the company's long-term growth and stability.

Industry analysts believe that any major disruption at Samsung Electronics could have ripple effects across global technology markets, given the company's significant role in semiconductor manufacturing, consumer electronics, and mobile devices.

The company reiterated its commitment to resolving the issue amicably and maintaining strong relationships with its workforce. It also expressed hope that ongoing negotiations would lead to a resolution that balances employee interests with the company's operational needs.

As the situation develops, stakeholders are closely watching for signs of progress in talks, with the outcome likely to influence both labour relations and business continuity at one of the world's largest technology firms.

US-Iran war strikes structural blow to Pakistan's economy

NEW DELHI

The conflict between the United States and Iran has triggered a severe energy price shock through Pakistan's economy which is in dire straits with rising inflation, dwindling foreign exchange reserves and a fast depreciating currency.

According to an article in India Narrative, this is not merely a transient shock for Pakistan, one of South Asia's most fragile states, but a structural blow to the economy. It points out that Pakistan is the primary casualty in the subcontinent of the US-Iran war. The article highlights that Pakistan's weekly petroleum import bill has surged 167 percent, from $300 million to $800 million, as the benchmark Brent crude surpassed $112 per barrel with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz driving freight costs and insurance premiums to historic highs.

It observes that the energy shock transmits across Pakistan's macroeconomy leading to accelerating inflation, current account deterioration, foreign exchange reserve depletion, currency depreciation, and a growing logistics crisis at Karachi port.

The article observes that in April 2026, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif confirmed publicly that Pakistan's weekly petroleum import bill had risen from $300 million to $800 million an increase of 167 per cent within. This works out to an annual additional burden of around $26 billion, a figure that nearly matches Pakistan's entire FY2025 merchandise export earnings of $29.8 billion. The country is, in effect, generating an import liability equal to its entire export sector in a single commodity category during a period of acute reserve stress.

Pakistan's incremental annual oil burden now approaches its total export earnings. This is not a price adjustment it is a stress event of structural proportions, exposing vulnerabilities that predate the current crisis by decades, the article observes.

It highlights that 85 to 90 per cent of Pakistan's petroleum requirements are met through imports, predominantly from Gulf states whose export logistics depend entirely on unimpeded Hormuz transit. The country has no comparable alternative supply option and no functioning strategic petroleum reserve.

Adani Electricity, BMC light up 2.5-km Gorai Beach stretch

MUMBAI

In Mumbai, Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited, backed by the Adani Group, has partnered with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to illuminate a 2.5-km stretch of Gorai Beach in Borivali West, ending nearly three years of darkness. The absence of lighting had raised safety concerns and limited evening access despite high visitor numbers. Traditional infrastructure efforts had failed due to harsh coastal conditions, including rocky terrain and corrosion from high salinity.

To overcome this, the project deployed 90 specially engineered streetlight poles using HDPE pipe sleeves, reinforced concrete foundations, and protected underground cabling. Advanced insulation, multiple earthing systems, and 5.25-metre poles ensured uniform lighting. A ladder-based maintenance system replaced heavy machinery.

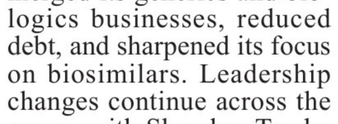
The initiative has improved safety, boosted surveillance, and increased evening footfall, restoring confidence among residents and visitors.

Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw names niece Claire as successor

NEW DELHI

In New Delhi, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has named her niece Claire Mazumdar as successor to Biocon, outlining a formal leadership transition. In an interview with Fortune India, the 73-year-old founder said Claire, 37, has demonstrated strong leadership as CEO of Bicara Therapeutics.

Mazumdar-Shaw, who has no children, also pointed to a wider family support system, including Eric Mazumdar, a professor at California Institute of Technology, and her husband Thomas Roberts, an oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital.



Biocon has recently merged its generics and biologics businesses, reduced debt, and sharpened its focus on biosimilars. Leadership changes continue across the group, with Shreehas Tambe heading Biocon Biologics and Siddharth Mittal set to lead Syngene International from July 1.

WEST BENGAL INVESTMENT

West Bengal Poised for Industrial Growth, Says CII Western Region Chairman

MUMBAI

Vir S Advani, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry Western Region and CMD of Blue Star Limited, has highlighted West Bengal's untapped potential for industrial investment, stating that the state is ready for a new phase of economic transformation. Speaking about the investment landscape, Advani noted that West Bengal offers significant opportunities for industrial growth, despite historically limited participation from the manufacturing sector. He pointed out that while the state has seen some activity in real estate, industrial investments have remained comparatively low, leaving room for expansion and development.

Advani stressed that this gap presents a timely opportunity for industries to explore West Bengal as a viable destination for manufacturing and business growth. He suggested that with the right policy support and industry participation, the state could emerge as a key contributor to India's industrial ecosystem.

Discussing the broader agenda of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Western Region, Advani said the focus will be on enhancing competitiveness across sectors, particularly among small and medium enterprises, which account for nearly 80 percent of its 2,500 members. He emphasized that competitiveness today extends beyond cost efficiency and includes improving product quality, accelerating digital transformation, and adopting sustainable business practices.

According to Advani, strengthening capabilities across the supply chain will be essential for Indian industries to compete globally. He added that the CII plans to intensify policy advocacy efforts across key western states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Goa, with a focus on improving ease of doing business and reducing operational costs.

Advani also drew attention to rising input costs driven by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, noting that the air conditioning industry has witnessed a sharp increase of 8–10 percent in raw material prices within a short period. He described this surge as one of the steepest in over a decade, comparable to the period following the global financial crisis.

While companies are exploring measures such as engineering redesign and renegotiation to mitigate the impact, Advani acknowledged that a portion of the increased costs may ultimately be passed on to consumers, reflecting ongoing challenges faced by the industry.

Rahul focuses on power to win games

NEW DELHI

In the fast-paced world of modern cricket, Delhi Capitals star KL Rahul has a simple mantra, win the first six overs to win the match. As the IPL 2026 season heats up, the wicketkeeper-batter is shifting his style to meet the aggressive demands of the T20 format.

Rahul, known for his steady technique, is now embracing a high-energy approach at the top of the order. He noted that while games used to be decided in the final minutes, the real battle now happens during the powerplay. According to Rahul, scoring big early on sets a winning rhythm that is hard for opponents to break.

"The game has changed," Rahul shared recently. He explained that team leaders gave him a clear mission before the season started - play with total freedom. This new mindset focuses on taking risks to help the team reach a target of 60 runs within the opening six overs. Even a quick burst of thirty runs can change the momentum of a game.

Working alongside partner Pathum Nissanka, Rahul is focusing on smart planning before hitting the pitch. They study every bowler to ensure they aren't caught off guard. While aggression doesn't always guarantee a high score, Rahul believes the right intent is what truly matters for the squad.

Rahul silences critics with stunning format transformation

KL Rahul has finally broken free from the tag of a Test specialist and proved his strength in shorter formats. Speaking during IPL 2026, he said early labels pushed him to work harder. Once hoping just to enter a T20 squad, Rahul changed his mindset and approach. Despite failures and poor form, he focused on balance and preparation. Now a key Delhi Capitals leader, he stays grounded by remembering struggles. His aim is simple: adapt, play freely, and win more trophies before his career ends. He believes effort matters more than results in match he plays.

KOHLI LEADS HEARTFELT FAREWELL FOR RCB LEGEND

BENGALURU

An era came to an emotional end as Royal Challengers Bengaluru bid farewell to their long-serving head physio, Evan Speechly. After a remarkable eighteen-year journey that began in 2008, the man behind the players' fitness was honored in a special ceremony that celebrated his unwavering loyalty and hard work.

Virat Kohli, who worked alongside Speechly for nearly two decades, led the tributes with a moving speech. Calling Speechly one of the "OGs" of the franchise, Kohli highlighted that beyond professional excellence, it was the physio's kindness and integrity that left the deepest mark. Kohli emphasized that while roles change, Speechly would forever remain a vital member of the RCB family tree.

The event, organized by the team management, brought together players and staff to recognize a legacy built behind the scenes. Director of Cricket Mo Bobat noted that bringing Speechly back was essential to properly celebrate a man who helped shape the team's culture across multiple generations.

Speechly was visibly moved by the gesture, stating that walking back into the team hotel felt like returning home. He expressed deep gratitude for his long tenure, noting that while many cricketers dream of spending just one season with Bengaluru, he was fortunate enough to stay for eighteen. As the team moves forward in the tournament, this farewell serves as a powerful reminder that the heart of a franchise lies in the dedicated people who support the stars from the sidelines.

Virat Kohli led a moving tribute to long-serving physio Evan Speechly, celebrating his eighteen-year legacy and unwavering dedication to Royal Challengers Bengaluru since 2008

Mumbai Indians' falling stars spark season crisis

MUMBAI

Not long ago, the Mumbai Indians were the undisputed kings of the IPL, turning big games into easy wins with five trophies to prove it. However, the 2026 season has seen that golden aura vanish, replaced by a string of losses that have exposed deep cracks within the star-studded squad.

The trouble seems to stem from a messy leadership change. Moving on from the calm, successful guidance of Rohit Sharma to Hardik Pandya has disrupted the team's rhythm. Pandya has struggled to find his footing, failing to deliver the match-winning magic with bat or ball that fans expected. This lack of clear direction has left the five-time champions looking lost on the field.

Even the heroes of India's recent World Cup win are feeling the heat. Suryakumar Yadav has shown flashes of his brilliance but cannot seem to finish games, while bowling ace Jasprit Bumrah has struggled to maintain his usual iron grip on opposing batters. When the leaders stumble, the rest of the team follows; the batting order collapses under pressure, and the bowling unit has lost its sting.

In a bittersweet twist, a veteran reminder of better days remains. Rohit Sharma, playing purely as a batter, recently smashed a brilliant 84 off 44 balls, proving his class hasn't faded. Yet, individual brilliance cannot hide the poor team construction and the loss of their home fortress, Wankhede Stadium. With playoff hopes fading, Mumbai must rediscover their identity before their once-mighty empire crumbles completely.

Pooran ends slump with explosive IPL knock

MUMBAI

Nicholas Pooran returned to form with a stunning knock for Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2026. He smashed 63 runs in just 21 balls, including eight sixes, against Mumbai Indians. His fifty came in 16 balls, making it the second-fastest for his team. Pooran had struggled earlier, scoring only 82 runs in eight innings. His powerful innings helped Lucknow post a big total. The team also recorded its fastest 100 runs in IPL history. Despite his efforts, Mumbai Indians chased down the target comfortably, winning the match and overshadowing Pooran's brilliant performance overall.

Rickelton hails Rohit after stunning match win

MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians opener Ryan Rickelton has shared glowing praise for his legendary partner, Rohit Sharma, following their dominant performance at the Wankhede Stadium. The pair shared a massive 143-run opening stand to help Mumbai chase down a daunting target of 229 against the Lucknow Super Giants.

Rohit, who had been sidelined recently due to a hamstring injury, silenced any doubts about his fitness with a vintage display. He smashed 84 runs off just 44 deliveries, including seven towering sixes. Rickelton, watching from the non-striker's end, was stunned by how quickly the former captain found his rhythm after a break. He noted that Rohit's deep knowledge of the game and his signature shots over extra cover remain as classy as ever.

The South African batter explained that their partnership works because they "dovetail" perfectly. While one goes for power in the air, the other uses natural flair to find gaps on the ground. This balanced attack kept the Lucknow bowlers under constant pressure throughout the chase. Despite a massive 63-run blast from Lucknow's Nicholas Pooran earlier in the day, the Mumbai openers made the chase look effortless, finishing the game with eight balls to spare.

For a team struggling with consistency this season, this partnership provided a much-needed spark of hope. Rickelton expressed his desire to keep this momentum going, noting there is no better feeling than winning in front of a home crowd when the chemistry in the middle is just right.

Raghu's long journey leads to dream wicket

MUMBAI

The road to success is rarely easy, but for Mumbai Indians spinner Raghu Sharma, it was a fifteen-year marathon. During Mumbai's thrilling win over Lucknow Super Giants, the 33-year-old finally claimed his maiden IPL wicket, a moment that moved both his teammates and his coach.

Coach Mahela Jayawardene praised the veteran spinner's incredible transformation from a humble net bowler to a vital squad member. He recalled how Raghu traveled to Sri Lanka for a training camp, pushing himself through gruelling ten-day sessions in the blistering Colombo heat to perfect his craft. Jayawardene noted that Raghu possesses a "strong mind and a big heart," qualities that allowed him to keep his promise of returning stronger this season.

The breakthrough happened in a high-scoring game where Lucknow posted a massive 228. While runs flowed quickly, Raghu stayed calm, finishing with steady figures and taking the key wicket of Akshat Raghuvanshi. After the dismissal, Raghu celebrated with a touching gesture, pulling a handwritten note from his pocket. The note described his fifteen-year struggle as "painful" and thanked the franchise for finally giving him a chance to shine.

Having joined as a replacement player who spent last year on the sidelines, Raghu's story has become an inspiration in the Mumbai dressing room. As the team celebrates their record-breaking chase at the Wankhede, Raghu's long-awaited success stands out as a beautiful reminder that persistence eventually pays off, no matter how long it takes.

Athapaththu rises fast in T20 rankings race

DUBAI

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu climbed into the top three of ICC T20I all-rounders rankings after a strong series against Bangladesh. She scored 115 runs and took four wickets, earning Player of the Series. Sri Lanka won 3-0 comfortably. Athapaththu now ranks third, moving ahead of Deepti Sharma and Ash Gardner. Teammates also improved, with Harshita Samarawickrama and Imesha Dulani rising in batting charts. Bangladesh players made gains despite losing. In ODIs, Pakistan players moved up after beating Zimbabwe, with Sidra Amin and Fatima Sana showing impressive form in latest rankings update.

Bangar slams Pant's leadership amid LSG crisis

NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Sanjay Bangar has sparked a debate by criticizing Rishabh Pant's captaincy following Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) latest defeat. After falling to a six-wicket loss against Mumbai Indians, Bangar suggested that Pant must find more clarity and composure to lead his struggling side effectively.

Despite a massive total of 228, powered by Nicholas Pooran's explosive 63, Lucknow could not stop Mumbai's chase. Bangar noted that Pant's personal struggle with the bat, scoring just 204 runs in nine innings, might be clouding his tactical decisions. He emphasized that a captain must project stability and calm, even when hurting inside, to keep the team focused during a losing streak.

"A captain has to fake composure at the forefront," Bangar told reporters, highlighting that this steady presence has been missing from Pant's recent interactions. With six consecutive losses, the pressure on the star wicketkeeper is at an all-time high. LSG currently sits at the bottom of the table with only four points, a far cry from the expectations that followed Pant's record-breaking ₹27 crore signing.

The critique comes as a reality check for the franchise, which has struggled to find a winning rhythm despite heavy investment. Bangar believes that until Pant finds his own form and regains his confidence, the "boiling" frustration under the surface will continue to hurt the team's communication and performance. As the season slips away, the focus remains on whether Pant can lead his squad out of this deep hole.

Gavaskar urges Bumrah to keep it simple

MUMBAI

Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar believes Jasprit Bumrah needs to stop overthinking and return to his roots to find his lost rhythm. Despite Mumbai Indians' recent victory over Lucknow Super Giants, the star pacer's uncharacteristic struggle with form and discipline has become a major talking point in IPL 2026.

Gavaskar noted that Bumrah, usually the gold standard of precision, is currently trying too hard to make things happen. This effort has led to uncharacteristic mistakes, including an unusual number of no-balls and a noticeable dip in his trademark pace. The veteran analyst pointed out that Bumrah's once-deadly yorkers and slower balls are drifting off-target, landing too full or sliding down the leg side. "He is overdoing things, and that's hurting him," Gavaskar observed during a recent interview. He suggested that trying too many variations has disrupted Bumrah's natural flow. According to Gavaskar, the solution is simple, stick to the basics that made him the world's best. He remains confident that just one or two good wickets will restore the bowler's confidence and bring him back to his peak.

Somani claims foul play in RR sale

NEW DELHI

The battle for the Rajasthan Royals has moved from the pitch to the boardroom. Just days after the Mittal family and Adar Poonawalla announced their takeover of the IPL team, the U.S.-based Kal Somani consortium has hit back, claiming they were unfairly sidelined from the deal.

In a surprising twist, the Somani group insists they never withdrew their massive $1.63 billion bid. Earlier reports suggested the group faced funding issues, but the consortium in which includes owners with experience in the NFL and MLB, blasted those claims as "planted stories." They stated they were fully funded and ready to close the deal, even alleging they were told a board meeting last Saturday was meant to approve their offer. "We do not believe the outcome reflected a level playing field," the group said in a joint statement. They expressed deep disappointment, noting that they had worked for six months to bring global sports expertise to the IPL. Despite having documents in place, they were left shocked when the franchise was sold to the Mittal and Poonawalla partnership instead.

Under the new agreement, the Mittal family will own 75% of the team, with Poonawalla taking 18%. While Manoj Badale remains as a minority shareholder to provide continuity, the Somani group feels the process lacked transparency.

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